The Chicago Tribune.

VOLUME 25. CHICAGO, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1872. NUMBER 155.

WASHINGTON.

Special Report of the Joint Ku-Klux Committee Sent to the Senate.

Serious Charges Against Senator Clayton, of Arkansas.

A Warm Fight Expected in the Senate Over the One-Term Resolution.

Our Spanish Relations---The True State of the Case.

Charles Hale, of Massachusetts, Nominated for Assistant Secretary of State.

Special Despatch to The Chicago Tribune.

THE ROTHSCHILD OFFER.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—Secretary Boutwell stated with reference to the reported Rothschild offer to take $600,000,000 worth of new bonds at rates of 4½ and 4 per cent, that he has heard nothing of it, and does not believe in it. He further says that offers are frequently made to the Treasury Department, on the part of foreign bankers, to take small amounts of these bonds, but nothing approaching the present magnitude has been received, or is likely to be for the present. *Per contra*, Governor Cooke, of the firm of Jay Cooke & Co., here, states that the European mail to-night brings these six hundred million dollar propositions for bonds, as above given, with the condition that the interest shall be paid in Europe.

OUR RELATIONS WITH SPAIN.

It now appears that that highly official despatch sent from here through regular channels as to our Government having made a positive demand upon Spain for an apology in firing upon the Florida by a Spanish vessel, the dismissal of the officer commanding the vessel, and immediate payment of damages sustained, was all based upon a problematical statement of the case. What he said to General Sickles, the President to General Sickles, the statement as to the firing upon the Florida turn out to be true, and if, upon further examination, it is found that the Florida did nothing to provoke such assault, then shall an apology be peremptorily demanded." This is all the basis the semi-official despatch in question ever had. Nothing has been received at the Navy Department as yet, notwithstanding the vessel has now been in an American port for five days, and Secretary Robeson is beginning to feel skeptical as to whether any outrage has been committed after all.

CONKLING.

Mr. Conkling made his appearance in the Senate to-day, for the first time since the recess. He had hardly got warm in his seat before he announced that on Thursday next he would deliver some remarks on Sumner's one-term resolution, now in the Senate calendar. It is understood that he will make this an occasion not only to oppose the one-term principle, but also to enter into an elaborate defence of the Administration, and particularly of the President. In the latter connection he will review the personal slanders current, and also make an onslaught on the Independent Republicans. It is evident that when Sumner's resolution once gets before the Senate nothing can prevent the debate from drifting into a general political discussion with particular reference to the forthcoming Presidential campaign, notwithstanding the fact that the resolution is so worded as not to make it operative until after the next President shall have been elected.

CHARGES AGAINST CLAYTON.

Various charges made against Clayton, of Arkansas, accusing him of corrupt practices and abuses of political power while Governor of Arkansas, having come to the knowledge of the Ku-Klux Committee during its Southern trip, Senator Scott, Chairman thereof, submitted a report of the testimony received in this case in the Senate to-day in order that Clayton might have an opportunity to make a personal explanation and to call for investigation into both statements. The Arkansas Senator took advantage of the opportunity offered to read from manuscript a speech going over his entire personal history in politics, and alleging that all the statements made in detriment to his good name and honor were sheer fabrications of either personal enemies. In conclusion, he asked that a special committee might be appointed to make the necessary investigation into the truth of the charges, which was granted. There are several parties now in the city who profess to be able to establish the truth of all that has been said of Clayton, especially with reference to the fraudulent manner in which he obtained his seat in the Senate.

THE STEAMBOAT BILL.

The Committee on Commerce have decided to report up the new steamboat bill on Thursday next, with it section until day, and proceed ed. Several sessions of the whole is hoped ... sumed in the discussion of committee will be ... of owners of patent devices are already here to pr... INQUIRY.

THE BUELL COURT OF ... xpect to report favorably to the House the resolution ... of the Kentucky, offered at the open... session, calling upon the Secretary of War ... nish a record of the Buell Court of Inquiry. ... understood that if he could make certain official records public he would be able to fully vindicate himself.

BROTHERHOOD OF ENGINEERS.

General Butler has introduced a bill incorporating about sixty engineers into a company styled "The Grand International Division Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers," with headquarters at Cleveland. The object is to aid each other to become more skilful and efficient, and to combine for charitable purposes. The officers are Grand Chief Engineer, First and Second Grand Assistant Engineers, Grand and Guide, Grand Chaplain, and Board of Trustees.

OTHER NEW BILLS.

Mr. Willard, of Vermont, has introduced a bill making it unlawful for a member of Congress directly or indirectly to recommend any one to office, or to oppose the nomination of any one to office, except the President or head of a department requests an opinion in writing.

Mr. Tyner, of Indiana, has introduced a bill to forbid the further sale of arable public lands, except under the pre-emption laws, or when located with bounty or agricultural scrip, and also providing that no more than 320 acres shall be purchased or located by any one individual.

POMEROY'S LAND SCHEME.

The House has ordered the Judiciary Committee to investigate and report upon matters connected with the pending attempt of Pomeroy or the Central Branch Union Pacific Railroad to obtain additional land or bond subsidy, and requested the Secretary in the meantime not to issue patents for an increase of subsidy.

MINISTER ROBERTS.

Official advices from Madrid state that Senor Lopez Roberts will remain here as Spanish Minister for the present.

APPROPRIATION BILLS.

The Post Office Appropriation bill will be reported to-morrow. It amounts to $28,000,000. The Legislative and Judicial bill will call for $20,000,000.

[To the Associated Press.]

CABINET MEETING.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—At the Cabinet meeting to-day there was very little said on our Spanish or the Louisiana affairs, it being considered that, at the present time, no necessity exists of a formal consideration of these matters.

The President sent to the Senate the following nomination, to-day: Charles Hale, of Mass., to be Assistant Secretary of State.

THE SUTRO-TUNNEL.

The report of the Sutro-Tunnel Commission was committed to the Senate to-day. The Commissioners report (the Bonne) as entirely feasible, and may be constructed in less than two and a half years, at a cost of about $4,500,000. They believe that the tunnel lode is a true fissure vein, continuing downward indefinitely.

CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.

KU-KLUX REPORT.

Mr. SCOTT made a special report from the Ku-Klux Committee, involving a question of privileges. He said that the committee investigated the affairs of Arkansas, and found that no Ku-Klux outrages were alleged to have occurred in that State for more than two years, but that satisfactory testimony had been given by two Democratic members of the Arkansas Legislature, implicating one of the Senators from that State (Mr. Clayton), and a member of the House (Mr. Edwards), which evidence the committee laid before the Senate, so that the Senator implicated might move an investigation. The testimony charges Governor Clayton, when Governor, made a bargain with Democratic members of the Legislature to disregard the regular returns of election for member of Congress in the district now represented by Mr. Edwards, and gave Mr. Edwards the certificate of election, although Clayton was really elected; that the consideration for this was the promise of the Democrats to vote for him for United States Senator. Mr. Scott said if the charges were found true it would be the duty of the Senate to consider whether the Senator from Arkansas was a fit person to hold a seat in the Senate; that if they were untrue the Senator was entitled to have them investigated, and have it exonerated.

Mr. CLAYTON, I suppose, under the rules, I cannot avoid have to lie over one day.

VICE PRESIDENT. It would.

Mr. CLAYTON. Then, sir, as I am the Senator implicated, and as I do not desire to lay under this imputation one day longer than can possibly be avoided, I ask unanimous consent to proceed at once to the consideration of the report. No objection was made.

Mr. CLAYTON read a long address, reviewing the evidence of Wheeler and Whipple, and vindicating his own acts as Governor. He described Whipple as the foreman of the United States Grand Jury, which was a mere political machine; Wheeler, United States Attorney, as a mere factotum, who moved only as others pulled the wires. He said that these charges, as well as his indictment by the Grand Jury, were made as part of a systematic persecution he had been subjected to by his enemies.

At the expiration of the morning hour the Amnesty bill came up, but it was made the special order for Monday next.

Mr. CLAYTON continued his remarks. In conclusion he asked the Senate to appoint a special committee to investigate the charges against him.

On motion of Mr. WRIGHT a resolution was adopted to refer the matter to a special committee of three, with power to send for persons and papers and report upon the charges against Mr. Clayton.

THE ONE-TERM AMENDMENT.

Mr. CONKLING gave notice that on Thursday he would call up the joint resolution to limit the President to one term.

PRESENTATION.

The Senate accepted the Roger Williams statue.

ALABAMA SENATOR.

On motion of Mr. THURMAN a resolution was passed admitting Mr. Goldthwaite, of Alabama, to a seat pending the investigation of the validity of his election.

BLODGETT.

On motion of Mr. MORTON a resolution was passed to pay Foster Blodgett, of Georgia, the usual expenses while contesting his seat in the Senate.

Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

OPENING PRAYER.

Rev. De Sola, of Montreal, in the opening prayer, said that, by the Treaty of Washington, the evils of war had been averted.

THE WABASH.

Mr. CREBS introduced a bill for the improvement of the Great Wabash and survey of the Little Wabash River. Referred.

KU-KLUX REPORT.

Mr. POLAND, from the Select Committee on the Insurrectionary States, made a report, stating that testimony had been taken before the subcommittee which imposed the official character and conduct of Senator Clayton, of Arkansas, and affected the right to his seat of Representative Elect Edwards, of Arkansas; that a resolution had been adopted that these cases should be brought to the attention of the respective Houses.

It was moved that the testimony in the case of Edwards be referred to the Committee on Elections. So ordered.

ELECTION CASE.

Mr. McCRARY from the Committee on Elections on the Virginia contested election case of McKinzie against Braxton, made a report that Braxton, the sitting member, is entitled to his seat.

COINAGE.

Mr. KELLY (Penn.), from the Committee on Coinage, reported a bill revising the laws relative to coinage.

Mr. POTTER said he did not see the necessity of legislating for coinage when the country had not enough in circulation for the wants of trade, and is not likely to have it for ten years to come.

The House then proceeded to consider the bill in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. MAYNARD moved to amend the section which provides for the appointment of a Director of the Mint, striking out the words "shall hold the office for five years, unless sooner removed for cause shown." He argued that the tenure of office "should not be limited to five years, as the office is then thrown open for a scramble.

Mr. GARFIELD opposed the amendment. He spoke of the importance of civil service reform as opposing only to take care of the front door by which appointments are made, while it left the back door for removals without cause.

Mr. HOLMAN moved to amend by striking out only the words "unless sooner removed."

The vote was rejected—yeas, 58; nays, 96.

Mr. WILLARD moved to amend by providing that the Director of the Mint shall hold office during good behavior. Rejected.

Pending the consideration of a motion of Mr. GARFIELD to reduce the salaries of the officers provided for, the House, on motion of Mr. DAWES, who said he was opposed to reductions of salaries, adjourned, so that the question might be carefully considered to-morrow.

FOREIGN.

Great Britain.

LONDON, Jan. 9.—Four millions of the new District of Columbia loan were introduced here and on the continent at 87½. Nearly all was taken before the books were regularly opened.

The Prince of Wales went out yesterday, for the first time since the commencement of his illness. Dr. Gull left Sandringham to-day.

The session of the National Trades' Congress opened last evening at Nottingham. Mr. Porter was elected President. Mr. Northrup, of Massachusetts, was present, and was accorded a seat on the floor.

The Court Journals, in articles on the assassination of Fisk, cite the cases of Richardson and Crittenden, and attribute the frequency of such deeds to the peculiar civilization of this country. They denounce the laxity of public sentiment.

The Queen and members of the royal family have gone to Osborne.

The statement that the ... of hostages taken by the Germans commenced on ... to-day is premature. There is reason to ... credit the *Standard's* statement last week, that ... the German officers will not proceed to extre...

Lord Stanley, in an address to a large meeting of workingmen at Liverpool, said the Old Liberal principles were exhausted. He predicted signs in the future Conservatism would predominate in all new questions.

France.

LONDON, Jan. 9.—Napoleon will soon publish a historical work, in which startling revelations will be made in regard to the French military system during the late war.

PARIS, Jan. 9.—Municipal elections have been held in seventeen districts in the provinces, to fill vacant seats in the Assembly. In three districts the Radicals were successful.

A committee of Republican electors of Paris called on Vautrain to-day, and begged him to remember that his election was the expression of the people's desire that the Assembly return to Paris.

Baron Van Arnim, German Ambassador to France, to-day presented his credentials to Thiers.

Count Biron, French Ambassador to Germany, has telegraphed his Government that he has been most flatteringly received by Bismarck.

Belgium.

BRUSSELS, Jan. 9.—The committee appointed by the Brussels Bourse, to receive subscriptions for the sufferers by the Chicago fire, to-day sent 10,000 francs to that city.

Italy.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—A private letter, dated Messina, Italy, Dec. 9, says almost every city in Italy is infected with the small-pox.

Germany.

BERLIN, Jan. 9.—The court martial of hostages ... orders of Gerson ... occupied provinces of France, ... commenced in the ...

China.

NEW YORK, Jan. 9.—The *Herald* has a special despatch from London, dated yesterday, which says: "In consequence of an understanding with the United States, England, and Germany for the suppression of piracy in the Chinese waters, the Spanish fleet stranded Ghizo, an island of the Malacca group, for the purpose of punishing the piratical Sultan. Seventy forts were demolished, and several bombshells struck the Sultan's palace."

Mexico.

MATAMORAS, Jan. 9.—A courier extraordinary reached here to-night from Hampshire with a telegram dated City of Mexico, Dec. 31, from the Minister of War, announcing two general engagements between General Rocha's forces and the insurgents, under Diaz, in which the latter were routed, with the loss of artillery and cavalry. The church bells are ringing, and troops are marching in the streets with music. There is great excitement over the news.

India.

NEW YORK, Jan. 9.—A Bombay letter to the *Herald* says that an English expedition of ten troops and ... been sent thence to subjugate the natives on the northwestern frontier of India.

UTAH.

Criminal Cases Before the United States Court Continued till March.

SALT LAKE, Jan. 9.—At the opening of the United States District Court this morning, District Attorney Bates presented his commission for four years, and was sworn. James B. High was appointed Deputy District Attorney. The United States Attorney General, showing that no money could be furnished to pay the witnesses, fifty per cent expenses without provision of Congress. Therefore, by order of the Attorney General, he moved to continue all the criminal cases until the second Monday in March. Continuance was granted. Mr. Bates goes to Washington forthwith to report in person.

NEW YORK.

Verdict of the Coroner's Jury in the Fisk Homicide.

Mrs. Mansfield's House Still Closely Guarded.

Line of Defence to be Adopted by Stokes' Counsel.

Conditions of the Rothschilds' Offer Relative to the New Loan.

Daily Review of the Leading Markets.

Special Despatch to The Chicago Tribune.

STOKES' DEFENCE.

NEW YORK, Jan. 9.—Stokes' counsel are making every effort to induce the public to believe that Fisk was armed, and expected to attack Stokes when they met. This is an old trick of that legal wind-bag, John Graham, who invariably opens his cases by telling all kinds of malignant falsehoods about persons on the other side. Fisk's friends pronounce as mere professional buncombe the assertion by John McKeon that, within thirty days facts would come to light which would change popular to the side of the prisoner; that he was in such daily fear of his life from violence at the hands of Fisk's employes that, for months past, he was afraid to go out alone at night.

THE PROSECUTION.

It is stated that a number of persons will swear Fisk never carried firms of any kind in his life; that on that particular Saturday afternoon they know he had no pistol.

THE FATAL BULLET.

The ball which entered Fisk's abdomen is a heavy, conical bullet, base one-third of an inch in diameter, and the length is half an inch. The sides of the bullet are heavily indented. From the course of the bullet, Fisk must have stood with his right leg on the step and his left next below, with his right side turned nearly full toward the assassin. The first shot fired struck him on the left arm, and, from the course of the bullet, when Fisk looked up and saw Stokes pointing to him, he must have seen the pistol suspected. Stokes was about to fire, and Fisk raised his arm deprecatingly.

HOW STOKES TAKES MATTERS.

Interest in the tragedy does not decrease. There is the greatest curiosity to see Stokes, who is more fastidious than ever in his dress, and has fitted up his cell with comparative luxury. He appears perfectly calm and seems unconcerned; has an excellent appetite, and gives no outward sign of remorse.

PROFESSIONAL BRAVOS.

There have been for years here professional bravos, and they have a good set of customers at good prices. They are generally hired to bruise and maim, but not to kill, and are far more numerous than is usually known. They are not at all ashamed of their vocation. They consider it a trade in which pleasure and business are combined. Almost every day the journals record an assault upon some citizen in a bar-room or street or elsewhere, and a general and natural supposition is that the assault is the result of a drunken brawl, for these cases are seldom thoroughly, if ever, investigated by the police. In most cases, however, the sufferer is simply the victim of a hired bravo. These professionals are paid from $10 upward to $1,000. The price depends upon the social or political position of the intended victim. The chances are good of escape from severe judicial scrutiny, but whoever the person may be, there is always a price at which a bravo can be hired. The plan is not always to waylay a man in an obscure spot, and deal him a blow from behind, as in the instance of the terrible assault upon D. B. Eaton. The bravo often finds an opportunity to pick a quarrel with his victim in a bar-room, or stage, or car, or on the open street, and then make sure beyond misunderstanding. The professional bravo of the period generally holds some petty office under the city government, which is a sinecure, and affords him leisure to attend to his more active duties. His scale of prices is graded with the utmost nicety. He will knock your mast down for $10, sand-bag him for $100, and pistol him for $1,000. A large number of these villains have been thrown out of sinecures by the demolition of Tammany, but are turning their attention to robbery and burglary.

MAYOR HALL.

It is believed by many that Mayor Hall's leave of absence is merely introductory to his resignation, while some say that he intends to run again, having heard of certain evidence said to be forthcoming against him, and implicating him in frauds.

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THE FISK INQUEST.

The Fisk inquest was resumed this afternoon. Patrick Hart, porter at the Grand Central Hotel, testified that he helped Fisk to the reception-room, and that he subsequently picked up a bullet.

Captain Byrne, of the police, identified the conical bullet as one given him by Crockett, who got it from Dr. Shrady, who found it on the floor near the body on the sofa near the staircase. Two barrels are discharged.

Dr. Tinker testified to the wounds of Fisk, and that the one in the abdomen was necessarily fatal, the shock and peritonitis arising from the penetration of the intestines, four holes in the four holes, and caused death. The probing for the bullet had nothing to do with it.

Fisk's *ante mortem* statement was read, despite the objection of the defence counsel.

Dr. Marsh read the result of the *post mortem*, and produced the ball. He also thought the wound necessarily fatal.

Counsellor Graham protested that it was a burlesque of justice to give the case to the jury without evidence for the defence. The jury retired, and was so prepared to take life as Stokes; but the Coroner declined to take any exceptions, and the jury retired at 1:30 P. M., and returned at 5 o'clock; at 7:30 submitted a verdict, which alleged that the Fisk came to his death by the commission of a wound or wounds, inflicted by a ball, on Saturday, from a pistol in the hands of Edward S. Stokes, discharged by him in deliberate manner at the person of said Fisk, at the Grand Central Hotel.

The Coroner committed Stokes to the Tombs, to await the action of the Grand Jury. His counsel urged that he be allowed bail, but the Coroner, either of the Grand Juries now in session, on account of the present excited state of the public, and said he was limited by law. He said he would see the papers shall be sent to the next term of the Grand Jury. The District Attorney said by the ... Fisk, at the Grand Jury part of the then current term. The Coroner reserved his opinion.

MRS. MANSFIELD'S HOUSE.

It is closely guarded by officers under orders of the Coroner, to prevent her leaving it without his special permission.

HALL RETIRES.

Mayor Hall publicly announced to-day that his private affairs will prevent him attending to the duties of the office in Mayor during at least one week. The President of the Board of Aldermen, he says, will act as Mayor until his notification to the contrary. This step is regarded as preliminary to his resignation. By the action General John Cochrane becomes acting Mayor.

RAILROAD WAR.

A railroad war has broken out in Hempstead, L. I. The Brooklyn Trust Company yesterday to foreclose the mortgage of the Hempstead Branch Railroad on behalf of the bondholders, who had not received overdue coupons. Disputes as to who shall have possession of the trains resulted in the wounding of several.

THE ALLEGED MURDER.

The steamer Weser, from Bremen, is quarantined with the small-pox aboard.

THE CHICAGO MURDER.

V. W. Borgart was yesterday arrested in Paterson, N. J., as accessory to the murder of R. F. Barrows, the girl Lizzie Hinds and attempted murder of Borgart in the poisoning. Professor Doremus has found arsenic in the stomach of Burroughs.

SHOT.

William Totton, 17 years of age, was killed, yesterday, by a barber named Walden, who was firing a toy cannon from his door as a salute to a target. Walden supposed that it contained only powder. A piece of the copper rod which had been used as a rammer was in the cannon, and struck Totton in the stomach, in the same place as Fisk's wound, and went through him.

A REFORM CIRCULAR.

The Committee of Seventy have issued a circular, inviting citizens who have knowledge of any fraudulent movements of the city administration to communicate their information to them.

THE NEW $1 GREENBACK.

The counsel of the Board of Police has been requested to give an opinion whether pigeon perches prevent any statute, and that are the relations of the police toward the claims of Henry Bergh, in regard to the arrest of persons engage in such ...

...port.

Three persons indicted for violation of the Election law were acquitted to-day.

SAVINGS BANK RUN.

The run on the Third Avenue Savings Bank continued. $1,250,000 have thus far been paid out. The *Post* says many depositors have sold their bank books at the rate of 75 per cent.

SUICIDE.

Charles J. Perry, ex-Mayor of Hoboken, shot himself in the head this afternoon, inflicting a fatal wound. Despondency is supposed to be ...

STOLEN DRAFTS RETURNED.

The Bank of New York received, to-day by ... eight drafts, amounting to $20,000, ... their porter on Friday, while in the ... Brothers. No clue to the thief.

POLITICAL.

The Missouri Democ... Policy and the Passive ...

Democratic Convention City, yesterday, ... passive policy, ... Republicanism and agreed to frame an address ... Missouri, and the results of the last campaign in ... that the consulting with the recommendation ... National Democracy be adopted by the ... Democracy in the Presidential ... of 1872. It will be signed by ... general number of the committee, including ... General John I. Phelps, who has doubted the expediency of the movement up to this time, but who accepts it as in the wish of the Democratic party of Missouri.

The committee also authorized Colonel P. B. Armstrong, of St. Louis, the Chairman, to appoint a time when a Convention shall be held to select delegates to a National Convention, the object of which shall be to withdraw the Democratic party from active participation in the Presidential nominations in 1872.

St. Louis, Jan. 9.—The address of the Democratic State Central Committee, referred to in a previous despatch, will be published to-morrow. It reviews the effect of the so-called passive policy in Missouri, and urges its application in the Presidential campaign. It says: The State Government which we have obtained with the assistance of Democratic votes has fulfilled all the reasonable expectations on which those votes were cast. It has given us honest and economical administration of the affairs of the Commonwealth, which has recognized its indebtedness to the slaveholders that elected it by calling into the public service a full proportion of patriotic Democrats whose high character has exempt them from virtual proscription during the rule of the proscriptive party, which demanded other qualification for public duties and honors than the simple one of a demonstrative loyalty.

The Democracy in Council at Springfield.

SPRINGFIELD, Jan. 9.—The Democratic State Central Committee of Illinois had a business session in this city yesterday. During the interchange of opinion on various political questions before the country, although no official action was had, the committee was unanimous in its endorsement of the Missouri policy. As far as views were expressed there was but one opinion as to the honesty and duty of honest men, of whatsoever party, in turning out the thieves from all posts of public trust; and to make another effort to have the republican government from centralization and despotism.

The meeting was largely attended, and harmonious in action and opinion.

Death of General Halleck.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Jan. 7.—General Halleck died at his residence, in this city, at 6:30 this morning. He was attended by Surgeon Crane, superintendent by direction of the liver, with which he has been afflicted for some time.

—A married woman named Scholl was drowned in a cistern at Madison, Wis., yesterday. Whether suicidally or accidentally is unknown. She had been in the Insane Hospital a year ago.

A report from Rawlins Station, yesterday evening, says no trains from the West have arrived since the 4th. Passengers and trains from the East have been at that station since Monday morning. One train turned back and ran eastward yesterday. A snow-plow had started for Creston, where the road is blocked.

STATE LEGISLATURES.

Record of Yesterday's Proceedings in the Illinois General Assembly.

Long Debate on the Temperance Bill in the House.

The Insurance Bill---Senate Action Striking Out the Deposit Requirement.

Mr. Sherman Re-elected to the United States Senate from Ohio.

Special Despatch to The Chicago Tribune.

THE PENITENTIARY DEBTS.

SPRINGFIELD, Jan. 9.—The special Committee on the Penitentiary, is now ready to report, and is only waiting for a favorable opportunity to do so. Then the creditors of the Penitentiary will be a little nearer the object of their desire. But that stage of the session is rapidly approaching when only a few big and necessary bills will receive consideration, and when they will block the way, and the little bills will have no chance whatever, unless the strongest personal influence is used.

REFORM SCHOOL BILL.

This morning the Senate passed the bill for transferring the boys from the Chicago to the Pontiac Reform School, several, who yesterday having voted against it, having learned that there was no harm in it, and changed their votes

THE TEMPERANCE BILL.

At last, the Senate Temperance bill, which is like the Ohio law, was taken up in Committee of the Whole in the House, and was almost immediately lost sight of under a multitude of substitutes and amendments. Mr. Massenburg wants to impose a State license, and to require a sufficient bond that no person will sell liquor to an invidual when warned not to do so. Mr. Casey, of Jefferson, wants the sale of adulterated liquors stopped or punished. Mr. Koerner wants no prohibition on the sale of wine or beer. And other persons are ready to find flaws beyond measure in the bill. There are so many earnest opponents to this measure as it comes from the Senate, and so bitter a fight will be made against it, that its passage is very unlikely, unless it be with an amendment providing for its submission to the popular vote. It has many warm friends, however, who are earnest in their belief in the absolute necessity and exceeding great wisdom of this measure, and they will struggle for its success to the utmost. Any sacrifice or anything which is not a matter of principle to attain it. This bill was debated with great fervor during the afternoon session, and then is yet enough left back to last two or three days. It is apparent, from the discussion, that there is a majority of members in favor of the bill, and the only fair possibility of its failing is that it may be talked to death. As to the speeches, there is little to be said. Those in favor of the bill were nearly all alike. Those in opposition were divided rather than arguments in support of the measure. Those of Messrs. Barnes and Koerner, on the other side of the question, were models of clear logic, power, ability and by an appreciation of the fact, which others are not inclined to recognize, that Illinois cannot, by her State legislation, interfere with the wild-cat insurance than any other State in the Union.

Mr. DORE called attention to the fact that foreign companies paid 100 per cent, which could not be said of many home companies. He argued that the bill would be terribly unjust in discrimination. Experience had demonstrated that insurance in a foreign was better than in home companies, as foreign companies had their capital safely in the bank, being composed largely of buildings, notes, stocks, etc.

Mr. FULLER was satisfied, from the arguments of Mr. Dore, that there was a time for passing an insurance law, but was in doubt as to the expediency of requiring home companies to deposit $50,000 and allow foreign companies to go scot free.

RECESS.

Pending consideration adjourned to 7½ p. m.

EVENING SESSION.

THE INSURANCE BILL.

Mr. EDDY favored the amendment offered by Mr. Early. The deposit of $50,000 required of home companies was no protection to policyholders. The provision was inserted in the bill at the demand of lawyers, who desired to have companies in the hands of the Receiver, in order to attach on judgments obtained. The people would make no objection to striking out the deposit requirement, that is required to secure anything else is a stringent supervision on the part of the Commissioners. It would be better for State to exercise a rigid supervision over the affairs of every company seeking to do business therein, and, when satisfied on that point, to allow them to do business without restriction.

Mr. LANGLEY said the bill proposed to hamper and chain down home companies, and the amendment of Mr. Early proposed to place companies in and private upon them. The bonds deposited with the Treasurer of Illinois would never draw as much interest as if held by the companies at the home office. The present law of 1869 drove out of existence wild-cat insurance companies, as the law of 1871 drove out wild-cat banking. The effect of the deposit was to create confidence in the minds of the people. ... create opinion that its passage, with ... ment, would be a constitutional ... deposit require-

Mr. CRETER, in explaining his vote, said that ruined and crippled ... ning his vote, said insurance companies in Chicago required the ...

Mr. CRAWFORD said that he opposed the amendment for the reason that the whole intention in the bill was to ... as against. He was not to be driven ... by Chicago, and from the ... position which he occupied right by popular ...

The amendment was adopted—yeas, 22; nays, 20.

An amendment striking out Section 28, requiring foreign companies to deposit $50,000 was lost—yeas, 17; nays, 24.

An amendment requiring companies to pay all ... examinations was adopted.

Mr. HAMPTON offered an amendment providing that the bill should not in any way interfere with the working on co-operative life insurance.

Mr. EARLY argued against the amendment. If these companies needed protection it should be done in a separate bill. He regarded co-operative insurance companies as confidence shops.

Mr. MALCOMB also denounced companies of this kind.

The amendment was lost.

Mr. JULLEY offered an amendment providing that in the event of loss less than the full amount of the policy shall be paid. Adopted.

Mr. VAN DORSTON moved to strike out the provision providing for the publication of statements in every county. Lost.

Mr. UNDERWOOD offered an amendment to compel Fire Insurance Companies to invest 60 per cent of reserve in unincumbered real estate in this State, or stock of this State, or any city or county therein. Lost.

The bill was then ordered to a third reading.

Adjourned.

Regular Report of Proceedings.

SENATE.

JANUARY 9, 1872.

The Senate met at 9 o'clock a. m.

ABSENTEES.

Alexander, Bangs, Bishop Epler, Hunter, Jewett, and Lanphier.

BLIND ASYLUM.

Mr. PIERCE, from the State Charitable Institutions, reported back the resolution by Mr. EPLER regarding the Blind Asylum, recommending that it lie on the table, and reporting in lieu thereof a resolution to the effect that in the condition of the finances, and the demands of other institutions equally deserving, the extension of buildings of the Blind Asylum was inexpedient; also commending the manner in which that institution has been conducted.

RECONSIDERATION.

The vote by which Senate bill No. 220, relating to compensation of Commissioners of Public Charities, was laid on the table until July 4, was reconsidered, and the bill referred to the Committee on Charitable Institutions.

Mr. FULLER, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported back Senate bill 289, relating to venue. Laid on the table.

RAILROADS.

Mr. FULLER, from the Committee on Railroads, reported back House bill 400, to provide for the incorporation of railroads, with amendments, which were ordered printed.

ELECTION BILL.

Mr. RICHARDSON introduced a bill relating to election duties and compensation of Assessors and Collectors in certain counties under township organization.

STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Senate bill 301, to reorganize the Illinois State Horticultural Society passed—yeas, 40; nays, 1—Voris voting no.

BAIL IN CIVIL CASES.

House bill 120, concerning bail in civil cases, was taken up and passed—yeas, 37; nays 1—Stame voting no.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.

Senators Pierce and Dore were appointed on the Committee of Conference, requested by the House.

REFORM SCHOOL BILL.

Mr. DORE called up his motion to reconsider the vote yesterday by which to transfer the boys to the Chicago Reform School to Pontiac was tabled, which was carried, and the bill put upon its passage. Passed—yeas, 34; nays, 6.

Boyd, Brown, and Solomon changed their votes from no to aye, passing the bill.

SECOND READING OF BILLS.

Several House bills were read a second time and appropriately referred.

CONVEYANCES.

A long and exhaustive discussion occurred on Senate bill 89, relating to conveyances, the principal topic being as to whether a married woman could convey real estate more understandingly at 21 than at 18 years of age.

INSURANCE BILL.

Senate bill 120, on insurance, was taken up as the special order, the question being upon the amendment offered by Mr. EDSALL, restricting the Commissioner to an actuary and one clerk as a Committee on Insurance reported as a substitute for the amendment providing that the Commissioner may employ such clerical force as is necessary, the whole expense of the force not to exceed $5,500.

Mr. EDSALL'S amendment was lost.

Mr. JEWETT offered an amendment that the energies of the committee had been mainly devoted to an effort to provide a thorough and reliable system of statistics regarding fire insurance, which he was of opinion was needed badly enough. He proceeded to show that, under the amendment, the whole cost to the companies of the Bureau would be less than $10,000, whereas under the present system it had cost them more than $30,000.

Mr. EARLY introduced an amendment striking out so much of the bill as required of foreign companies a deposit.

Mr. FULLER wanted to know why State companies are required to make deposits and foreign companies exempted.

Mr. DONAHUE defended foreign companies, contrasting them with home companies, saying the safety of the commercial interests in Chicago side of the lake was the ability of foreign companies, including in that category many Eastern companies. Past experience had demonstrated the fact that the home companies, as a class, were unscrupulous, many defects in this proposed law. Its provisions are, in some respects, ... and ... calculated to defeat, its aim; but comparatively no attempt was made in the Senate to amend them, since many who voted for the bill did so in the conviction that it would be made a dead letter. He hoped members who favor it in the hope that it will be about equivalent to prohibition, will probably be mistaken. After the delays of to-day he was not ... was made the special order for to-morrow afternoon.

THE ONE-TERM RESOLUTION.

It is understood that Dan. Munn, Ed. Baker, and two or three other Federal office-holders, are here to urge reductions to be brought by the House a reconsideration of the vote by which the resolution in favor of the one-term amendment was passed. They are said to have come on the ground that the appointment of such resolution, especially coming from Illinois, would be exceedingly injurious to the prospects of General Grant, and it is also reported that one of the South Side members is the person chosen to make the motion to reconsider.

THE REPORTS ON THE GOVERNOR'S SPECIAL MESSAGE.

Now that the consideration of the two reports on the Governor's message have been made a special order for Tuesday week, quite a number of members have gone to work to prepare themselves for the discussion, which is the most important subject of the duties and spheres of the State and Federal Governments. The galleries will be filled with women, and it will be about the only chance they will have to afford for making speeches which will interest and amuse these pretty lookers-on. There is no longer a doubt that the old and economical administration of the affairs of the Commonwealth, which has recognized its indebtedness to the slaveholders that elected it by calling into the public service a full proportion of patriotic Democrats whose high character has exempt them from virtual proscription during the rule of the proscriptive party, which demanded other qualification for public duties and honors than the simple one of a demonstrative loyalty.

The Democracy in Council at Springfield.

SPRINGFIELD, Jan. 9.—The Democratic State Central Committee of Illinois had a business session in this city yesterday. During the interchange of opinion on various political questions before the country, although no official action was had, the committee was unanimous in its endorsement of the Missouri policy. As far as views were expressed there was but one opinion as to the honesty and duty of honest men, of whatsoever party, in turning out the thieves from all posts of public trust; and to make another effort to have the republican government from centralization and despotism.

The meeting was largely attended, and harmonious in action and opinion.

Death of General Halleck.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Jan. 7.—General Halleck died at his residence, in this city, at 6:30 this morning. He was attended by Surgeon Crane, superintendent by direction of the liver, with which he has been afflicted for some time.

—A married woman named Scholl was drowned in a cistern at Madison, Wis., yesterday. Whether suicidally or accidentally is unknown. She had been in the Insane Hospital a year ago.

A report from Rawlins Station, yesterday evening, says no trains from the West have arrived since the 4th. Passengers and trains from the East have been at that station since Monday morning. One train turned back and ran eastward yesterday. A snow-plow had started for Creston, where the road is blocked.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

REPORT CALLED FOR.

Mr. HEAFIELD offered a resolution calling on the

A FRESH LEASE OF LIFE.

The Execution of Andrew J. Pertset Indefinitely Postponed.

A Writ of Error Granted by the Supreme Court.

The Accused to Have a New Trial---What He Says About Himself.

Yesterday was a day of gloom for Pertset, the negro who some weeks past under sentence of death for killing his wife. Time does not "gallop withal" to a man who has the gallows in immediate view. Death by hanging has its terrible aspect to the most stoical, and for Pertset it had exaggerated horrors. What thoughts, what fears, what visible, what troubled dreams are allotted to a man so situated, few, fortunately, are fated to know. The prisoner is a man of some education and intelligence, and seems not to be destitute of the religious sentiment. From occasional remarks made during the last day or two, it became evident that he fully appreciated his situation. Judging from the case, as already presented to the public, it did not seem probable that his doom could be averted. It was known that an effort was being made to secure a new trial, but few thought that it would be granted.

Yesterday afternoon, work was to have been commenced in the jail upon the fatal scaffold. It was to have been erected at the west end of the central corridor, almost fronting the door opening from the Sheriff's office. The prisoner was aware of the forwardness of the preparations, and spoke of them accordingly to those who came about his cell.

But Chicago is not to enjoy the luxury of a hanging just least for the present. The erection of the gallows has been indefinitely postponed. Yesterday afternoon a despatch came announcing that a writ of error had been granted by the Supreme Court. The news was impacted to the prisoner about the middle of the afternoon. He was much elated at the prospect of a new trial, which, he says, will result in a verdict of imprisonment for life. He expects little, if anything, better than this. A representative of THE TRIBUNE called upon him soon after this change in circumstances were announced to him. The day was pleasant, and the jail wore its most cheerful aspect.

The cell in which Pertset is confined looks out toward Randolph street. It was nearly sunset at the time when the cell was first seen, and the purple light flushing the northern sky. The reporter found him leaning both arms on one of the bars of his cell door. His aspect was cheerful, if not happy. Trouble and confinement have not made serious ravages upon his system. He seemed hale and hearty as ever. His disposition from the first has been a happy one. His manner did not appear to have been recently washed, and he still wears the dirty hickory shirt which he had on during the trial. The conversation was not long, and in talking in regard to the murder, he showed that he had taken kindly the instructions of his counsel. He expressed some dislike for reporters, as a class, and said that they had misrepresented him in his own language. The following conversation occurred:

Reporter. Well, they say you are to have a new trial. I suppose you feel considerably relieved.

Pertset. Yes, certainly I do. The prospect of hanging is not pleasant. It is not a very agreeable death to die.

Reporter. The execution, I believe, was set for to-day?

Pertset. Yes, and they were to have commenced building the scaffold this afternoon, if that despatch had not come.

Reporter. What chances did you intend to purpose upon the gallows? Should you have made a statement?

Pertset. No; I had made up my mind about that. Not a word should have been said; not a bogie should have been blown. There would have been no stamping and no stamping of mind up this way (pointing up). I have been keeping up this telegraphing with the other world a long time.

Reporter. What do you mean by this "telegraphing," as you call it? Do you believe that you are in communication with spirits?

Pertset. Well, as to the crime, all I have to say is that, if I committed any crime, I was not conscious of it. I suppose you were drunk, and I was.

Reporter. Had you been drinking that day?

Pertset. No, I hadn't. I hadn't been drinking for a week.

Reporter. Had you ever had an attack of what is called *delirium tremens*?

Pertset. No!

Reporter. Had you been in the habit of drinking previous to the killing of your wife?

Pertset. No; I never have been in the habit of drinking. I had been in an office, and sometimes I had to go into a beer saloon to get a lunch. Of course I had then to buy a glass of beer, but that was no means.

Reporter. But you say you think you are forgiven?

Pertset. Yes; I am sure, if I have committed any crime, I am forgiven. I used to be a religious man, and was a good many years a member of a church. Once I was Superintendent of a Sunday School. I was also an officer of the Order of Good Templars.

Reporter. Had you any difficulty with your wife long before she was killed?

Pertset. I do not wish to answer questions of that kind. That is leading.

Reporter. Had you lived together for some time previous?

Pertset. I don't want to tell anything about that now. When the proper time comes I will speak about my differences with my wife, and give reasons for them.

Reporter. When were you married?

Pertset. I don't recollect exactly. I believe in last June we were married by the county.

Reporter. Have you been reconciled to your daughter?

Pertset. Yes. She was here a little while ago. I believe she means to tell a true story when she was on the witness stand. I would not attempt to lead her into answers at all. I would not have had her made a simple contrary to her conscience for anything.

Reporter. Had you attended church for some time previous to the killing of your wife?

Pertset. No, not for perhaps two months.

Reporter. Were you ever a barber?

Pertset. No. I was a painter by hanger. I was formerly a bricklayer and mason by trade, but I met with an accident, and had to find other business.

Reporter. Will you state briefly the principal events in your life after coming to Chicago?

Pertset. I came here in 1865. Mr. Cesar Ingalls came in coming here was to enlist in the army. After which I was crippled, and became conscious I was a sinner and needed pardon, and I sought and found pardon in Jesus. As soon as I was able to be out I connected myself with the Good Templars and Sunday-school. This was in September, 1870. I was made Deputy Great Chief of that order, under L. C. Carr, Grand Chief. Deputy, and during two months I received from him as State Deputy at Large. I was afterward elected Superintendent of the Sunday School in Cyrus Chapel by the children of the school. I served in that capacity two years one month and thirteen days.

All efforts of the reporter to draw the prisoner toward the subject of his crime were unavailing. His policy was to profess a simple and entire unconsciousness of that transaction. Quite a number of calls were made during this brief interview. Most of the visitors were colored women, and very pensive looks were reached through the grating, and deposited little sums of money in Pertset's hand, hoping that he would soon be relieved of his difficulty and about the streets again. The recipient of the bounty received the alms in the semi-unconscious style of shabby genteel society, but replied indistinctly to the good wishes. One old hag, as black as Erebus, who moved her elephantine proportions lazily about the corridors, attracted general attention.

It is to be presumed that Pertset had, last night his first unbroken rest for many weeks.

IS THE WEST SIDE A COLLECTOR?

Dominic Kleutsch Supposed to have Fled from the City to Avoid Punishment for Malfeasance in Office---His Alleged Mode of Operation.

There would seem to be no doubt now about the departure of Dominic Kleutsch, Collector of West Chicago, from the city. It was thought for a time that he desired to avoid certain persons, and concealed himself at his residence, but inquiry there, yesterday, resulted in learning that he was not at home, and that his whereabouts were unknown. The reason for his leaving the city does not understood in official circles; but the people at large, except by indirect hints, have not been made aware of his desire to escape an investigation. It was known that ex-Sheriff Kleutsch conducted business in this way: Taking the taxbook he would run down the figures in the dollar column, and add a 1 to a 3, a 5 to a 6, or a 7 to a 9, thus increasing the tax 2s, 1s, or 2s. The alterations were made with a lead pencil, and Master Hall, who collected the money, would return the amount opposite each name. After the returns were made, it is charged that Kleutsch erased the lead pencil figures and accounted only for the original sums. The difference was the alleged peculations is, of course, unknown, but it is thought to be considerable. Only two or three of the tax-payers who are aware of having paid too much money for taxes have yet been heard from. One of these, the proprietor of a pickle establishment, who was in the habit of paying in bulk, as his place was opened since the fire, paid in $112, that amount being assessed by Kleutsch on his responsibility.

The missing Collector is a Prussian, and landed in this country in 1861. After serving two years in the army, he was appointed a clerk in the Post Office and subsequently occupied a position under the Board of Public Works and in the office of the Board of Assistance. Two years ago he was elected Collector of West Chicago, and was re-elected last November on the Fire-Proof ticket. Now that he is thought to have secured a short record, many Germans who at one time vehemently supported him denounce him as a swindler, and declare that he never enjoyed the confidence of the better class of Germans. It is not known whether the Board of Public Works will refuse to bail Kleutsch. His sudden disappearance, however, causes many people to infer that he fears that some of his acts will be investigated, and that he will be responsible to which his bondsmen, if proven to be guilty, would render them liable. His bondsmen are said to be Henry Greenebaum and Jacob Schaell, and Conrad Stipp.

A bondsman must be a resident of the county, and must own property to the amount of his bond, above all exemptions. It is a matter of speculation, if the defalcation is found to be as great as many suppose it is, whether the West Side will be found to be good for the amount.

THE BOARD OF HEALTH.

Mortality Reports for the Past Week and the Month of December.

The Small-Pox---List of Infected Houses ---The Spread of the Disease Stopped.

A regular meeting of the Board of Health was held yesterday afternoon, Samuel Hoard, Esq., in the chair. There were also present Drs. Ranch, Reynolds, and Johnson.

A RESIDENT IN DANGER.

A communication from the parents of children attending school in the vicinity of Twelfth street and Fourth avenue, requesting the removal of a distillery, referred by the Board of Education to the Board of Health, was referred to Dr. Ranch.

A "HORRIBLE NUISENCE."

The following autographic communication was referred to Dr. Ranch:

To the Board of Health of the City of Chicago:

GENTLEMEN: I take this means to lay before you a horrible nuisence on Stewart Avenue, west Wright & Co.'s packing-house, the Packing & Provision House of McKitchen, &c. this establishment has been closed by you some time since but since the fire the seem to pay no attention to such orders the neighborhood has no objection to packing but rendering such material as is rendered there is a horrible nuisance, you are aware that the Secretary of Rendering Hogs guts and all is very disagreeable so much so that if it is prolonged the people fr a Least two Block will have to leave their neighborhood. I hope this will get due consideration and I am very low and unwilling subscriber, I remain Oblige &c &c

J. CLOWAY.

Ald. S. Ward.

WEEKLY MORTALITY.

The Sanitary Superintendent submitted the weekly mortality report. It appeared that the number of deaths for the week ending Jan. 6, 1872, was 116; less, by 2, than the week preceding. Of these 58 were males and 58 females. Under 5 years; 60 were males, and 50 females. The causes of death were much as usual: 3 by accident; 1 by alcoholism; 1 by bronchitis; 2 by convulsions, 4 by diphtheria, 4 by puerperal, 4 by scarlet, and 3 by typhoid fever, 1 by manslaughter, 13 by pneumonia, 12 by small-pox.

SMALL-POX.

Independent of small-pox, there was nothing unusual in the causes of death, and the general health of the city was good. The highest mortality was in the Eleventh, and the lowest in the Fourteenth Wards.

INFECTED HOUSES.

Cases of small pox and varioloid were reported at Nos. 15 Bremer street; 101 Bremer street; 1025 West Jackson street; 327 Milwaukee avenue; 134 West Eighteenth street; 616 South Union street; 1 Sedgwick street; 1 Sedgwick avenue; 41 Brown street, 59 Erie street; 41 Kramer street; 43 Brown street; 90 Foster street; 391 South Jefferson street; 1,061 Wabash avenue; 1,063 State street; 419 South Clark street; 292 West Twelfth street; 526 South Halsted street; 20 Clayton Place; 1 Sedgwick street; 29 Mark street; 191 West Erie street; 652 Burnside street; 138 West Randolph street; 182 West Randolph street; 1,063 South State street; 739 Centre avenue; 329 Sedgwick street; 662 South Halsted street; 136 Newberry avenue; 27 Frank street; 13 Hubbard court; 1,063 State street; 919 South Clark street; 292 West Twelfth street; 526 South Halsted street; 20 Clayton Place; 1 Sedgwick street; 29 Mark street; 191 West Erie street; 652 Burnside street; 138 West Randolph street; 182 West Randolph street; 1,063 South State street; 739 Centre avenue; 329 Sedgwick street; 662 South Halsted street; 136 Newberry avenue; 27 Frank street; 13 Hubbard court; 1,063 State street; 919 South Clark street; 292 West Twelfth street; 526 South Halsted street; 20 Howard street; 241 Fourth avenue; 223 Maxwell street; 20 Fulton street; 1 Sedgwick; corner of Clayton street; 779 South Halsted street; 199 Jackson street; 765 Wabash avenue; 923 Wentworth avenue; 194 Newberry avenue; 19 South Canal street; 426 State street; 111 Orchard street; 14 Belknap street; southwest corner of Indiana and Reuben street; 303 North Wayne street; 1 Sedgwick street; 303 North Wayne depot, arrived from New York, and 136 Fourth avenue.

There is an increase in the number of infected houses reported this week.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.

The following table shows the comparative number:

	Week ending			
	Dec. 16.	Dec. 23.	Dec. 30.	Jan. 6.
South of Twelfth street, West Side..	18	12	13	20
North of Twelfth street, West Side..	12	16	13	22
South Side.....	2	2	5	9
North Side.....	0	3	4	5
Total.....	32	33	35	56

Although there is an increase in the number of infected houses reported, compared with the previous week, the Superintendent was satisfied that the pestilence is now at bay, as nearly all the cases reported during the last few days are of those in the week and a larger proportion of them of a milder type. There are 162 points of infection and 162 cases. The physician is also aware of a number of vaccinations by the medical office of the Relief Society and the offices of the Board have been about 1,200 daily. The increase in the number of deaths by small-pox over the preceding week was five, owing to various causes, the chief being the change of temperature. If the death rate were two or three hundred, the officers of the Relief and Aid Society, who had been offered vaccination and declined, not thinking it necessary.

THE CITY IN BRIEF.

Police Benevolence.

The semi-annual meeting of the Chicago Police Mutual Aid and Benevolent Association was held at the Madison Street Police Station, yesterday afternoon, the President, Superintendent Kennedy, in the chair.

Sergeant Hackley, the Treasurer, submitted his report for the six months ending Dec. 31, 1871, which shows that the receipts were $1,417.38; expenditures, $1,080.73; cash on hand when last report was made, $2,331.90; balance in the treasury, $2,667.70.

Patrolman Fitzpatrick, the Secretary, submitted the annual report. There are 272 members of the association. During the year there were three deaths, making ten since the organization. There has been paid out for defraying members before the society and burial expenses, $2,656.40; and to widows and orphans of deceased members, $6,081. The society has $100 worth of property by the fire. The report concludes with the recommendation that hereafter more liberality be shown in donations to sick and destitute members, and that forth the regular fee, were accepted and placed on file.

The Committee on Charity reported, saying that it could not be procured unless the clause in the constitution, authorizing the employment of counsel to defend members in the courts, be stricken out.

An election for officers was then took place with the subjoined result: President, Captain George M. Miller; Vice President, Patrolman Dexter Chapman; Secretary, Patrolman Dennis Fitzpatrick; Treasurer, Sergeant William J. Buckley; Board of Trustees, Patrolman Stephen Rouse.

The association then adjourned.

A Blow on the Head.

The Coroner held an inquest, yesterday, on the body of John Strauss, whose death from the effect of a blow on the head, received during a fight on the night of Dec. 31, 1871. John Strauss testified that he was present on New Year's Eve, was mentioned in yesterday's THE TRIBUNE. His testimony showed that the parties engaged in the fight were Peter Kohl, John Strauss, First Weindl and Henry Kloss, on one side, and Jacob Strausser, the proprietor of the saloon, and a man named Ackerman on the other. Chairs, beer-glasses, and a mallet were used with decided effect. The deceased was present, but took no part in the affray. After it had ceased, he was found lying on the floor, suffering from a wound in the head. He was picked up and a doctor sent for, but as his skull was badly fractured he died on the Monday morning mentioned. The jury, acting in accordance with the facts, exonerated Strausser, Kohl, Dietrich, and the two Weindls he held until the Grand Jury can act in the case, and the former is now in custody, and were committed to jail; the other two have thus far escaped arrest.

Horribly Burned.

A little girl named Mary Sliel, who lives with her parents at No. 146 Reuben street, was so badly burned yesterday morning that she is not expected to live. Her mother went out to purchase some meat, leaving her all alone in the house. Thinking she would do something to please her mother, she attempted to kindle a fire with the burning shavings, her dress ignited and in a moment she was a mass of flames. She screamed, and some one, thinking the house was on fire, came out and alarm from No. 31½. Some of the neighbors rushed into the house, and, finding the little girl running around as if insane, caught her and tore off her blazing garments. Dr. Buckley was called in, and found that her body and arms and face were so horribly burned as to render her recovery extremely doubtful.

Police Matters.

The Board of Police held a special meeting, yesterday afternoon, to hear the evidence for the defense in the case of Roundsman Mayer. Newland and Florence Donohue, of the First Precinct, who were charged with maltreating William Stewart, the colored man. Facts have been given in the report of the meeting of the Board, which appeared in yesterday's TRIBUNE. The evidence for the officers brought out did not palliate the offence---kicking and knocking down Stewart, and temporarily disabling him,---and both were dismissed from the force. The following evidence subsequently reconsidered their action in relation to Donohue, it not appearing that he was as much to blame as Newland, and they restored him to his position, but fined him a month's pay.

The Secretary submitted a draft of a law, prepared in accordance with the instructions of the Board, reducing the salaries of the Commissioners to $800 a year, and was requested to forward it to Springfield, with a letter urging its passage by the Legislature.

The pay rolls of the fire department, amounting to $87,267.86, and of the police department aggregating $38,001.72, were audited and ordered to be paid.

The Board then adjourned.

Free Public Library.

At the meeting at Plymouth Church, on Monday evening, Mayor Medill was authorized to appoint a committee of "to prepare, mature and carry out legislation as may be needful for the purpose of establishing a free public library in Chicago, and report early action." At the same meeting a public meeting, to be called by them for that purpose, was also to take charge of any books that may be contributed for the establishment of such a library." The Committee was on yesterday announced to consist of the following gentlemen: Thomas Hoyne, Chairman; Judge Henry Booth, W. B. Doggett, S. C. Larned, S. S. Hayes, James Walker, D. Kreigh, C. H. Walker, C. Judah Bowden, Henry Greenebaum, Geo. S. Bowen, Levi Z. Leiter, Geo. Schneider, Edwin Lee Brown, Wm. Blair, Wm. Aldis, Wm. Penn Nixon, C. Julius Rosenthal, J. Y. Scammon, Carter H. Harrison.

Important to Railroad Men.

At a meeting of the Railroad Committee of the Common Council, held at the committee rooms of the Council chamber, on the 4th inst., the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, There are several railroad companies now seeking authority to enter the City of Chicago; and

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MARYLAND.

The Wharton Poisoning Trial—The Prisoner in Court.

Conclusion of the Case---An Innocent Woman---Science Comes to Her Rescue.

From Our Own Correspondent.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Jan. 3.

I have been at Annapolis for three days. Mrs. Wharton is on trial there for poisoning recently-relieved Paymaster General of the Army, Brice. I went down from Washington to Annapolis before daylight on Friday, and, arriving at what is called Annapolis Junction, found Mr. W. Prescott Smith, a celebrated railway official, escorting many ladies on Baltimore down to the old-fashioned Capitol. Mr. Smith, I may say, possesses in a very remarkable instance of the fact that Marylander, being a wit, a courtier, and a first-class railroad-forwarder, and one of the most distinguished men produced in the war as a despatcher of troops and military provisions. Although the morning was cold, drizzly, and unfortunate, there were crowds of visitors running down from Baltimore to Annapolis, to see what, in the jargon of modern journalism, is called the American Borgia.

VALKING OVER THE CRIME.

Now, there can be no such thing as an American Borgia. We have no correspondence of dark traits of character. If any of us poison anybody, we poison upon the immediate impulse, to accomplish some one practicable criminal end. Therefore, when I heard the word Borgia named at Annapolis station, I felt some sense of contempt. On the train going down were two persons who, above all others, are responsible for the feeling against Mrs. Wharton.—Williams, the physician who prescribed for General Coleman, giving him, among other things, yellow jessamine and chloral, and who, at the untimely result of his prescriptions, turned about and told the Baltimore authorities to arrest Mrs. Wharton and examine the contents of Ketchum's stomach. Williams is a rather small, attenuated man, between 30 and 40 years of age, beardless, pale, and not prepossessing, although apparently anxious to make friends, and put his side of this wonderful case in the best light before the public.

The other chap, Aiken, is called the professional dog-poisoner of Baltimore. He is not by chemistry. As Senator Tipton would have remarked, he has no visible means of occupation, except discovering cases of all descriptions, and particularly cases in the human stomach, by which he makes his living. He is a tall, gaunt, lank-looking man, with a face like a horse, and reddish wig and bread, long face and chin, branching white beard and whiskers; he would be known discovered so much poison in a human stomach.

It was soon apparent that the Williams-Aiken party were on what is called the quiet for newspaper reporters. Very soon—in pretty genial my style—Williams, Aiken, and party got on to Annapolis, and, with his spot-bag, reported myself at the Maryland Hotel, and, after a little while, dropped over to the Court-Room. The Court is a brick edifice, directly opposite the Hotel, and the church occupying a circular site in the very heart of the town,—one of the several circles or plats in Annapolis, devoted to public edifices. Just as Penn going into the Court-House, as we left the common city cab, such as might have been worn out in Baltimore, driven by two old horses worth $50 apiece, and driven by a shonny old negro, stopped—both of the two closely-veiled figures dismounted.

"There," said a man to me, "is Mrs. Wharton and her daughter Nellie." Two more completely veiled and mysterious figures I have never seen in Annapolis. Almost all the town had strived themselves in that profound mass of black which makes the whole dress a shrouded mystery. Each derives some respectability from the fine character of the female attendants with them. Sometimes you will see Colonel Brantz Mayer on hand—a large, portly, stalwart, white-bearded, heavy man, of the very oldest Maryland patronage and family connection; again, Mr. Herman Williams, a quiet, unpretentious, commercial gentleman; or, again, Mr. Stomp, of Harford County, a leading attorney of several terms in the Legislature. The unfortunate woman into the Court's cell, when she sits down within the bar of the Court incloisure, she is flanked on each side in the rear by never less than half a dozen friends who protect her from the vulgar curiosity of the crowd. If you are familiar with the history of Maryland, you will have read that when Braddock made his march on Fort DuQuesne, he encountered Michael Cresap, a famous Maryland pioneer, who was a great factor of Penn's colony on the Delaware. He was an Indian trader, one of the pioneers of the Indian King, and a contractor to furnish supplies to Braddock's army. Cresap's genial hospitality and obliging, and the Indians called him "The Big Spoon." He has been called also, as a personal contemporary of Rob Roy MacGregor, "The Maryland Rob Roy." Michael Mayer is one of his descendants, a well-intoned, fine type of a Middle States man.

THE COURT SCENE.

Passing into the little Court, one sees no crowd of villagers or notoriety-seekers. Passing in the vestibule, some County officers, he was, within, a good-sized Court-Room, which can accommodate, perhaps, 400 persons. The time Judges sit just opposite the door, against the wall—green curtains, taken from the State House, falling like drapery behind them. They are very decent-looking Judges, all gray-haired; the central figure a man in the middle of life, well, fine, effectual eyes; the Judge on his right even more portly and stable-looking; and the Judge on the left, short, quiet, and discreet. These gentlemen, I understand, had been abused, unfortunately and yet to have been abused by certain local newspapers, which appreciated a deserved suit or slander when Mrs. Wharton shall be acquitted, for having made the most precipitous case against her. On the left of the Judges sit the jury, twelve as good-looking and respectable men as can be found in the United States. There is high respectability in the rural parts of Maryland, to the character of the juries; and it has been remarked on all sides that the jury is one of the best to look upon ever seen assembled. Immediately in front of the Judges sit the counsel for Mrs. Wharton,—Maryland, State, Pennsylvania, and Stump: Steele is a keen, fiery sort of a man, between 50 and 60 years of age, with a short knob of a nose, gray hair, keen eyes, respectable appearance, and is said to be best lawyer in Maryland, next to Reverdy Johnson, and he is said says the case for money so much as conviction and professional pride. The Judges are afraid of this old man, although he is no bully.

Stump is a beardless, middle-aged, white-haired person, noted in Maryland as a very skilful prosecutor of cases. I regret belonging to Annapolis, and is a long-nosed, well-bred, positive sort of chap, below the middle age. Stump is a thick-set man, from the county seat of Baltimore, well connected. All the witnesses believe that Mrs. Wharton is a badly-maligned woman.

There are but two lawyers for the prosecution, the Attorney General of the State, Syester, of the descent, and a politician of public character, who lives in one of the western counties, and who has made his reputation by clearing people, rather than convicting them. Associated, Revells, is a small, open-spoken man, Methodist of them, who is one public opinion gratified in the case of Mrs. Wharton, beyond making this very interesting. I have been told, although I do not assert it as not responsible, that the Governor has expressed the opinion that Mrs. Wharton to be an innocent woman.

The Court-Room is neat, lighted with half a dozen windows, and upholstered with the usual carpet and chairs. In the middle of the State, directly within pistol-shot of the Court. It was gratifying to me to find that the lawyers and Judges recognized THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE, off in this quiet town of Annapolis, as one of the New York daily papers, which come to them every day. The furniture of the Court-Room is of the plainest sort. During the three days I was present, the light at the window was very early in the morning, and towards evening very painful, and for the last hour and a half or two hours pained my eyes very much, and, from current testimony, evidently to witnesses, lawyers, Judges, and spectators also. Every day there appeared in the Court-Room about one hundred charming Maryland ladies, who filled the Court to—swear off the equal of a good Maryland town. It would be true to say that the ladies, who belong to the fourth city of the Union in population, to see how the Eastern provide for their Government. The Court about every day, to look on, and take a seat among the Judges. He lives within 200 yards of the Court-House, in a brick residence, covered with a mansard roof, and ornamented with a cupola. He goes directly from his residence, which stands almost beside it, to the granite portico. The house cost $30,000, without exception the handsomest Governor's residence in the United States; and I think I may say that the State Capitol of Maryland is also the most tasteful in the country, although more than 100 years old.

OLD ANNAPOLIS.

This is the old Colonial Capital of Maryland, and the literature of the State clusters around it. It is the most compact town in this country, the county, or thirty first-class houses, made of English brick, presided over it. These houses are surrounded, in some cases, by elaborate brick walls many of them containing memorial slabs in marble; several silver cornices of an elaborate sort; some are built with wings, in the style of town-houses of the nobility in London; others have stables in the rear. It was said to me by an old citizen of

"Sir, when I was a boy, there were six four-horse turnouts in this town; now there is hardly one cab."

I have been shown in Annapolis a house belonging to the family of Harewood, which cost, one century ago, $80,000; two or three years ago it sold for $5,000. You will hardly erect in Chicago a nobler house, considering the height of the staircases, the excellence of the material for joists and walls, and the good character of all the masonry and carpentry. This little city, which has only four policemen, all uniformed, subsists almost wholly upon the United States Naval School and the State Legislature. I met Congressman Farnsworth at Annapolis. He has a son in the Naval Academy, and runs down there frequently to see him. Annapolis town is not rectangular, like many Eastern cities; it is laid off with an intention to disclose its many public edifices—State Capitol, churches, State University, Court House, etc., and has two very fine hotels, called respectively the City Hotel and the Maryland Hotel. The former is the most distinguished man produced in the Country-Room. The Court is a brick edifice, directly opposite the Hotel, and the church occupying a circular site in the very heart of the town,—one of the several circles or plats in Annapolis, devoted to public edifices. Just as Penn going into the Court-House, as we left the common city cab, such as might have been worn out in Baltimore, driven by two old horses worth $50 apiece, and driven by a shonny old negro, stopped—both of the two closely-veiled figures dismounted.

"There," said a man to me, "is Mrs. Wharton and her daughter Nellie." Two more completely veiled and mysterious figures I have never seen in Annapolis. Almost all the town had strived themselves in that profound mass of black which makes the whole dress a shrouded mystery. Each derives some respectability from the fine character of the female attendants with them. Sometimes you will see Colonel Brantz Mayer on hand—a large, portly, stalwart, white-bearded, heavy man, of the very oldest Maryland patronage and family connection; again, Mr. Herman Williams, a quiet, unpretentious, commercial gentleman; or, again, Mr. Stomp, of Harford County, a leading attorney of several terms in the Legislature. The unfortunate woman into the Court's cell, when she sits down within the bar of the Court incloisure, she is flanked on each side in the rear by never less than half a dozen friends who protect her from the vulgar curiosity of the crowd. If you are familiar with the history of Maryland, you will have read that when Braddock made his march on Fort DuQuesne, he encountered Michael Cresap, a famous Maryland pioneer, who was a great factor of Penn's colony on the Delaware. He was an Indian trader, one of the pioneers of the Indian King, and a contractor to furnish supplies to Braddock's army. Cresap's genial hospitality and obliging, and the Indians called him "The Big Spoon." He has been called also, as a personal contemporary of Rob Roy MacGregor, "The Maryland Rob Roy." Michael Mayer is one of his descendants, a well-intoned, fine type of a Middle States man.

THE COURT SCENE.

Passing into the little Court, one sees no crowd of villagers or notoriety-seekers. Passing in the vestibule, some County officers, he was, within, a good-sized Court-Room, which can accommodate, perhaps, 400 persons. The time Judges sit just opposite the door, against the wall—green curtains, taken from the State House, falling like drapery behind them. They are very decent-looking Judges, all gray-haired; the central figure a man in the middle of life, well, fine, effectual eyes; the Judge on his right even more portly and stable-looking; and the Judge on the left, short, quiet, and discreet. These gentlemen, I understand, had been abused, unfortunately and yet to have been abused by certain local newspapers, which appreciated a deserved suit or slander when Mrs. Wharton shall be acquitted, for having made the most precipitous case against her. On the left of the Judges sit the jury, twelve as good-looking and respectable men as can be found in the United States. There is high respectability in the rural parts of Maryland, to the character of the juries; and it has been remarked on all sides that the jury is one of the best to look upon ever seen assembled. Immediately in front of the Judges sit the counsel for Mrs. Wharton,—Maryland, State, Pennsylvania, and Stump: Steele is a keen, fiery sort of a man, between 50 and 60 years of age, with a short knob of a nose, gray hair, keen eyes, respectable appearance, and is said to be best lawyer in Maryland, next to Reverdy Johnson, and he is said says the case for money so much as conviction and professional pride. The Judges are afraid of this old man, although he is no bully.

Stump is a beardless, middle-aged, white-haired person, noted in Maryland as a very skilful prosecutor of cases. I regret belonging to Annapolis, and is a long-nosed, well-bred, positive sort of chap, below the middle age. Stump is a thick-set man, from the county seat of Baltimore, well connected. All the witnesses believe that Mrs. Wharton is a badly-maligned woman.

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The Court-Room is neat, lighted with half a dozen windows, and upholstered with the usual carpet and chairs. In the middle of the State, directly within pistol-shot of the Court. It was gratifying to me to find that the lawyers and Judges recognized THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE, off in this quiet town of Annapolis, as one of the New York daily papers, which come to them every day. The furniture of the Court-Room is of the plainest sort. During the three days I was present, the light at the window was very early in the morning, and towards evening very painful, and for the last hour and a half or two hours pained my eyes very much, and, from current testimony, evidently to witnesses, lawyers, Judges, and spectators also. Every day there appeared in the Court-Room about one hundred charming Maryland ladies, who filled the Court to—swear off the equal of a good Maryland town. It would be true to say that the ladies, who belong to the fourth city of the Union in population, to see how the Eastern provide for their Government. The Court about every day, to look on, and take a seat among the Judges. He lives within 200 yards of the Court-House, in a brick residence, covered with a mansard roof, and ornamented with a cupola. He goes directly from his residence, which stands almost beside it, to the granite portico. The house cost $30,000, without exception the handsomest Governor's residence in the United

THURSDAYS IN ANNAPOLIS.

You must recollect that I am writing this after three days spent in Annapolis, and my prejudices, if any, are in a mere pressed down there by with the association carried, perhaps, by everybody in the country, nine-tenths of whom know no more about the case than I did, but lull into the current, namely that, unless there is some testimony on hand, we had been swindled.

That is Aiken,—that heavy-set, sleepy-looking, babyish-faced giant, who had Dr. Schoepf, a celebrated, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, of poisoning with prussic acid, and who has served in other murder-trials in the Middle States, and now been down on Mrs. Wharton with all the force of office, and this very-looking cheap, with silver spectacles, and reddish wig and bread, long face and chin, branching white beard and whiskers; we could he have discovered so much poison in a human stomach.

It was soon apparent that the Williams-Aiken party were on what is called the quiet for newspaper reporters. Very soon—in pretty genial my style—Williams, Aiken, and party got on to Annapolis, and, with his spot-bag, reported myself at the Maryland Hotel, and, after a little while, dropped over to the Court-Room. The Court is a brick edifice, directly opposite the Hotel, and the church occupying a circular site in the very heart of the town,—one of the several circles or plats in Annapolis, devoted to public edifices. Just as Penn going into the Court-House, as we left the common city cab, such as might have been worn out in Baltimore, driven by two old horses worth $50 apiece, and driven by a shonny old negro, stopped—both of the two closely-veiled figures dismounted.

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NEW YORK.

New Year's Day and Ladies' Day.

Beautiful Costumes---"The Toilette and Its Devotees."

From Our Special Correspondent.

NEW YORK, Jan. 3.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

has something the same effect upon our gay season that the bright little banner waving from om city cars in frost time has to the skating community. It is the sequel for immediate excitement; it says, plainly enough, "The ball is up;" the carnival is begun; no more quiet routines of receptions, dinners, and opera, but a whirl of visiting, a throng of grand entertainments, and balls innumerable.

As for the day itself, it was observed here very cordially. The weather was cloudy, even rainy at times; but that outward infelicity only served to precipitate the sunshine more radiantly within. The callers were in excellent humor; and the ladies, it is said never looked so beautiful, or wore such charming costumes. One innovation there was upon the customary entertainment,—a quite general banishment of wines in favor of coffee and chocolate. The floral decorations were profuse.

LADIES' DAY.

Yesterday, the gentlemen, of course, were no longer visible, or, if visible, did but loom feebly above the horizon as objects of condolement. But no trace of this "immense fatigue" was perceptible in the feminine world. The ladies were flying all day from house to house,—not to much purpose,—certainly so far as actual greetings were concerned, but satisfactorily in the matter of cards, which nowadays are distributed illimitably, etiquette requiring that a separate card should be left for every member of the family, instead of a little turned-down corner. I was well worth a drive down Fifth avenue just to see the windows; they were so lovely with flowers. Hardly could I say "Feast of Flora" have called forth richer illuminations of roses, carnations, violets, and camias, draped with waxen-leaved smilax, and capped with a burning rosette, or mounted upon flaming pyres of scarlet poinsettia.

COSTUMES.

It was a beautiful day, favorable for pretty costumes, which appeared chiefly in dark rich colors, with much fur and velvet.

Some brilliant dresses alighted from the carriages, such as rose-colored silk, *en costume*, with trimming of ostrich-feather border, and the bonnet to match,—worn by a much-admired brunette; and a pearl-gray Cashmere, literally strewn with embroidered flowers,—very becoming to one of the fairest of New York belles, who still dips her hair in champagne, nothwithstanding the capricious glance of Fashion, now turns coldly away from blondes, and, pausing for a moment to give devotion to the rather rare "bronze-brown hair and blue eyes," veers unmistakably toward *les brunes*.

In spite of the effort made to introduce the demi-train in promenade costume, the most elegant people still retain the short skirt; it appears also in latest dresses from Paris. The favorite mode of trimming it is with box-plaitings, or double box-plaitings, headed by two or three narrow ruffles, or set on at intervals with bows.

In a very pretty promenade costume of mulberry-colored silk, the skirt was trimmed half a yard deep with velvet, and ornamented with velvet and silk. The overskirt was edged with leaves of passementerie, the shape of maple-leaves, and of a finger's length. The basque resumed, in waistcoat style, the silk and velvet.

This costume exemplifies one of the incidents of the present mode, which determines, as a rule, that the trimming of the underskirt should differ entirely both in material and style, from that of the overskirt.

Another promenade dress, *en costume*, was of dark-green silk, bordered on basque and upper skirt with trimming of green velvet, with satin, and so caught at the edges as to resemble rosettes. The underskirt was trimmed half a yard deep with banded silk, enclosing a velvet and bordered on each side with a ruffle,—these bands being put on longitudinally. The bonnet wore with this was of black velvet, in the now quite ordinary shape of a Chrysolite, fastening with no color, excepting a quilling of pink velvet some three inches above the forehead, in effect of antique nimbus.

FALL DRESSES.

In the way of ball-dresses, a much-admired novelty appeared among the many exquisite toilettes which, on Thursday night, graced the most elegant and brilliant entertainment of the season,—a ball given by Mrs. Belmont to celebrate the "coming of age" of her son Perry.

The ball-dress was of a silver-gray tint,—a soft color, which showed to advantage folds of satin. It was trimmed with blonde lace, and festooned with strings of pearly shells such as are brought in necklaces from Venice, the rosettes were clasped with large spiral shells, and the coils of various sizes placed in the trimming; but all, having their roughness removed by acid, were of the same lustrous pearl, tinged with the varied colors of the rainbow.

THE TOILETTE AND ITS DEVOTEES.

Apropos of Fashion and of feminine beauty and adornment, an admirable chapter, entitled "The Toilette and its Devotees," appears in one of the Autumn gift-books,—a new and much-extended edition of "Salad for the Solitary," published by DeWitt C. Lent. The volume contains brought-in-sorts on popular subjects, composed of rare and choice quotations, rarely and choicely knit together by a dextrous original text.

The chapter on the Toilette has among tributes paid by the poets to beauty, some piquant practical hints and clever bits of advice. By way of contrast, too, a few sauce slanders, such as the expression of Colerid—"a fair lady having married rouge he could imagine, would be the union of a deaf man with a blind woman," and one or two unpardonable puns like—

When Eve brought rest to all mankind,
Adam declared her opinion;
And when he found she scored so kind
He then pronounced her companion.
But now, with gentlemen of taste,
Their husbands' pockets trimmin',
The women are so full of sashes
They can call them other women.

The following quotations are upon the subject of heightening beauty by adroit choice of dress:

Chevreul remarks: "Drapery of a lustreless stuffs, such as cambric muslin, ascorts well with a fresh complexion, of which it relieves the rose color; but it is unsuitable to complexions which have a disagreeable tint, because white always exalts all colors by opening their tone; consequently, it is unsuitable to those skins which, without having this disagreeable tint, very nearly approach it. Very light white draperies, such as point-lace, have an excellent effect. Black draperies, lowering the tone of the colors with which they are in juxtaposition, whiten the skin; but, if the vermilion or rosy parts are, to a certain point, distant from the drapery, it will appear that, although lowered in tone, they appear, relatively to the white parts of the skin contiguous to this same drapery, redder than if the contiguity to the black stuff were not."

A recent writer says he likes "Bounces where they wave and flow, as in a very light material,—muslin, or gauze, or barege, when a lady has no suffing and no mass, but looks like a receding angel or a dissolving view;" but he does not like them in a rich material, where they flop, or in a stiff one, where they bristle, and where they break the flowing lines of the petticoat, and throw light and shade where you do not expect them to exist.

"The amply-folding robe cast around the harmonious form; the long-drawn clasp and zone of the bosom; the braided hair, or the veiled head,—these were the fashions alike of the wife of a Phocion and the mistress of an Alcibiades. A chastened taste ruled all their toilets; and, from this hour to this, the forms and modes of Grace have been those of the poet, the sculptor, and the painter."

A graceful anecdote illustrates the relative importance of dress: "Lizard, the Parisian French painter, when very young, was the bearer of a letter of introduction to Lanjuinais, then of the Council of Napoleon. The young painter was shabbily attired, and the reception was distinctly cold; but Lanjuinais discovered in him such striking proofs of talent, good sense, and amiability, that, on Girard's rising to take leave, he rose up, and accompanied his visitor to the anteroom. The change was so striking that Girard could not avoid an expression of surprise. 'My young friend,' said Lanjuinais, anticipating the inquiry, 'we receive at our house according to his dress; we take leave of him according to his merit.'"

FANCHON.

Vaccination vs. Small-Pox.

WARSAW, Ill., Dec. 30.

To the Editor of The Chicago Tribune:

SIR: Small-pox is already making progress in some of our large cities, and, from the indications, there seems to be sufficient grounds for anticipating an epidemic. The facility with which intercourse is continually occurring throughout the country furnishes a ready channels in which this filthy and dangerous disease may be transmitted. Not only our own persons, as we move in society, become subject to its baneful influence, but those at our hearthstone. Small-pox has been a terror to all nations from its earliest history; and medical records tell of its fearful ravages in past epidemics. Almost every household in this land have been shorted out by its ravages. Previous to the introduction of vaccination, the epidemic, small-pox, came very common, coming almost yearly to take away thousands. But, since the days of Dr. Jenner, when vaccination was introduced, small-pox epidemics have become less frequent and destructive. Proof is not wanting to substantiate the good effects produced by vaccination. In the last seven years there have been but about twelve epidemics in the past thirty years. This is mainly due to vaccination in England, it is shown that out of every 1,000 deaths from all causes in the half-century from 1838 to 1888, as died from small-pox. In the German States, during the same period, out of every 1,000 deaths from all causes, 40 were from small-pox. In Ireland, where greater negligence exists, out of every 1,000 deaths are from small-pox. In countries where vaccination is compulsory, and the death-rate lowered to its minimum, as in Sweden, Norway, Prussia, Saxony, Lower Austria, Bohemia, Switzerland, and Bavaria, 4 deaths from small-pox in 1,000 deaths from all causes. The desirableness of these having been vaccinated and suffering from small-pox is estimated at from 2 to 5 per cent, and of the unvaccinated from 15 to 25 per cent. Improper vaccination is the cause of so great a mortality in those vaccinated. Where vaccination is properly performed, there is scarcely a loss of more than 1 per cent. The best time for vaccination is in childhood, just previous to teething. The child should be well-born, otherwise the vaccinal influence cannot be relied on. In 1,000 cases we find that the number of marks give the following results: When the individual has been but imperfectly vaccinated, with no scar or pit remaining, 25 per cent; having one good cicatrix, 41; having two good marks, 34; having three, 15; having four pits, 1 per cent. Pronounced, thirty-six per cent.

In order that small-pox shall be eradicated, and the hopes of the famous discoverer be realized, it will be necessary to compel every child to be vaccinated by a competent physician. Let it be remembered that, if the first vaccination is improperly performed, the second is not so highly protective. Dr. Marston, of England, says: "Probably revaccination is not to be relied on to the same amount of protection that the first vaccination, properly performed does. The great object to aim at is to vaccinate well in infancy. The child should be looked upon as the sheet-anchor; and, therefore, a careless vaccination should be deprecated. Physicians, in their anxiety for speedy, the vaccination often takes effect badly, and will never afterward take effect properly, and the individual may who sustain pox severely."

JOHN J. TAYLOR, M.D.

RAILROADS.

The railroad from Ellsworth to Machtes, Me., if everybody is satisfied with its location, will be about 60 miles long, and more crooked than the Mississippi River. Every school district in Washington County expects the road to run through it.

—The Rockford Railroad commenced the new year by raising the salary of all employees $5 per month.

—Of the railroad now building between Dubuque and Clinton, Iowa, the *Age*, of the latter place, has the following to say in its last issue: "Right speedily comes the new railroad—the Chicago, Clinton & Dubuque. From Dubuque down the river some twenty miles, the iron is laid and the cars running. As soon as the frost will allow, the graders will move in the spring, and ere midsummer Dubuque and Clinton will be connected by the 'iron rail.'"

—The Minneapolis *Tribune* of Friday says: "A company was organized in this city yesterday for building a railroad to Grand & St. Peter Railway, and it was determined to commence work on the same early next season."

—Jan. 1, the New Orleans, Jackson & Great Northern Railroad passed under the Superintendency of Colonel N. D. Frost, who had for a long time previously occupied the post of Superintendent of the Southern Railroad Association. The entire route from New Orleans to Humboldt is now, therefore, under one management.

—DeGraff & Co. have commenced work on the bridge across the Minnesota River, on the line of the St. Peter & New Ulm Railroad. This bridge will be 2,700 feet long, and Colonel De Graff says they will have it completed by the 20th of February.

—A Quebec letter says the contract for building the Great North Shore Railway between Quebec and Montreal has been awarded to New York and Boston contractors. The work will be commenced as soon as the frost is out of the ground, and the entire road will be completed in two years. The North Shore Railway will be a part and parcel of the Central Pacific Railroad. It is said that the stock will be mostly taken by Americans.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The first street cars under the shadows of the Rocky Mountains commenced running in Denver on Saturday last.

—Foxes are very plenty in the eastern counties of Pennsylvania.

—Montreal distributes $6,000 annually at Christmas among its poor.

—Fayal oranges sell in Boston now for half what apples of equal weight will bring.

—The Scuppenong grape, from which the famous Carolina wines are made, is the most profitable in the world.

—The bottom has dropped out of New Jersey at a point on the Old Midland Road, near Smithtown. Whatever the undermining or filling in connections do in the day time disappears before the next morning. Ninety car-loads per day have gone down for several weeks now. There are suspicions of an underground rattrap.

—There are but nine families in Gosport, N. H., and the debt of the town is $6,836.31.

—The London *Times* thinks three men-of-war could capture that city.

—A letter to the Lawrence *Tribune* says:

In your issue of Dec. 30, you have occasion to say about the oldest person in Kansas. Gov. Meeker, a missionary among the Ottawas, brought a press to Kansas in 1833, and printed the first book ever printed in the Territory. It was entitled the *Elements of Freedom* at Prairie City in 1837. He afterward removed to the Yellow Valley Station, on the same press at Barrington, Cedar County, and still afterward the Ottawa and Falls *Banner* was printed on the same press, which, I believe, you receive at the same press. At all events, that press is the oldest in Kansas.

—The latest style of engagement rings are of sapphires or opals, surrounded with small and brilliant diamonds.

—A Connecticut woman refused to pay a dime for an 1871 almanac, because one for 1871 had been offered her for a cent.

—"There is scarcely a Republican in the entire South," says the New Orleans *National Republican*, "who does not favor universal amnesty."

—An election for State Treasurer takes place in Pennsylvania on the 16th inst.

—An iron steamship is en route from Liverpool to Philadelphia, to load with oysters for the first named port.

—Hon. F. A. Straw, the nominee of the Republicans for Governor of New Hampshire, is a native of Warner, in that State, and has just entered his 62d year. He had the benefit of one year's mathematical instruction at Andover, after which he was employed as assistant civil engineer on the Nashua & Lowell Railroad; subsequently, in the same capacity, by the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company, of which, in 1861, he was appointed agent, in which office he has since remained. He has served five years in the Legislature as Representative from Manchester, represented the Senatorial District two years, and was President in the Senate one year.

—Krupp's great iron works at Essen, Germany, over nearly eight square miles, and one and a half miles under cover. They furnish employment for 10,000 men, who do their work under a discipline as strict as that of the military service. Castings weighing forty tons have been made several times in these works, and ten and twelve-ton blocks are every-day sights. There are forty-nine hammers in the works, of which four or five are twenty-five tons, three or four fifteen tons, and a large number five and ten tons. The greatest of all the hammers is a wonder, and cost $500,000. Its foundations are 100 feet deep, consisting of three tiers,—the first constructed of solid masonry, the second of the heaviest and stoutest oaks to be found in Germany, and the third of cylindrical segments of cast iron upon which the anvil block rests. The head of the hammer weighs fifty tons. Its face is of steel, and in making it, after the steel had been cast, and while it was molten, cast iron was poured into it from the back. Everything that belongs to it, and to the engine that operates it, is in duplicate and triplicate. Four steam cranes serve it, and these are each tested to bear two hundred tons, and are intended to bear forty-ton ingots, which are the largest cast. In 1868, forty-one thousand tons of steel were turned out from these works.

Didn't Know Adam.

As Artemus Ward was once travelling in the cars, dreading to be bored, and feeling miserable, a man approached him, sat down and said:

"Did you hear the last thing on Horace Greeley?" said Artemus.

"Greeley? Greeley?" said Artemus. "Horace Greeley? Who is he?"

The man was quiet about five minutes. Pretty soon he said:

"George Francis Train is kicking up a good deal of a row over in England; do you think they will put him in a bastile?"

"Train? Train? George Francis Train?" said Artemus, solemnly. "I never heard of him."

This ignorance kept the man quiet for fifteen minutes; then he said:

"What do you think about General Grant's chances for the Presidency? Do you think they will run him?"

"Grant? Grant? Bang it, man," said Artemus, "you appear to know more strangers than any man I ever saw."

The man was furious; he walked up the car, but at last came back and said:

"You confounded ignoramus, did you ever hear of Adam?"

Artemus looked up and said: "What was his other name?"

Trial of a Communist Heroine.

Paris Correspondence of the London *News*.

A heroine of the Commune, Mademoiselle Louise Michel, schoolmistress of high attainments and position, who had sixty pupils belonging to good families, who is 25 years old, and very handsome, has been tried by a Versailles court-martial as an accomplice in the acts of the Commune, as having personally fought in uniform, and as having written articles in the *Cri du Peuple* inciting to the assassination of the two Generals.

Her manner was simple, calm, modest, and unassuming; but she defied her Judges, saying that she respected the social revolution—she respected the Court more than the Committee of Safety—and openly judged in secret. She stood face to face, she said, with avowed enemies, who she knew must condemn her. She admitted that she attended and took part in almost every council of the Commune, and declared that the Communal arms were honest and innocent, and had no thought of murder or arson. She would have had the two Generals, Clement Thomas and Lecomte, with her own hand, had she seen them in the ranks of action, but she repudiated as a basterdly deed their execution when they were prisoners. She had proposed free as a strategical means of opposing the advance of the Versaillists. She had exhorted Ferre to invade the Assembly, and regretted that he had not done so. She meant two lives to be sacrificed at Versailles, those of M. Thiers and her own.

M. Marchand, the counsel assigned to her, declined to speak for the defense, by express order of the prisoner. She said: "All I ask of you is to send me to Satory. Shoot me there, and let me sleep by the side of my beloved Ferre. The Public Prosecutor is right; I have no place in this world, at a time when an ounce of lead is the portion of the lovers of liberty and right."

The President, Colonel Delaporte, stopped her harangue, and after a few minutes' deliberation, the Court sentenced her to imprisonment for life in a fortress.

DRY GOODS.

NOTICE.

CARSON, PIRIE & CO.

Will open their new and extensive Retail Department,

No. 329 West Madison-st,

Opposite Aberdeen-st.,

ON WEDNESDAY MORNING,

10th inst., with a large stock of DRY GOODS at low prices.

COMMISSION MERCHANTS.

GILBERT & BREGA,

COMMISSION MERCHANTS,

43 Canal-st.

Advances made on consignments of Grain, Seeds and Provisions.

Special attention given to buying and selling on MARGINS.

MURRY NELSON & CO.,

ESTABLISHED 1855.

COMMISSION & SHIPPING MERCHANTS,

No. 7 Central Union Block,

(MARKET-ST.),

MURRY NELSON, E. B. STEVENS. CHICAGO.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

ROOT & CADY,

642 Michigan-av.

MASON & HAMLIN ORGANS,

Steck Pianos,

Root & Cady Pianos,

STRINGS, VIOLINS,

And all other kinds of IMPORTED GOODS. Re-Goods at Lowest Prices.

E. T. ROOT, C. M. CADY, WM. LEWIS } ROOT & CADY.

COAL.

Cheap Coal.

We have in our Market-st. Yard a small stock of LACKAWANNA COAL, all sizes, slightly damaged by fire, which we will sell for

The Chicago Tribune.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 10, 1872.

TERMS IN ADVANCE:

City Edition, per year, by mail.....$12.00
Tri-Weekly Edition, per year, by mail.....4.00
Sunday Edition, per year, by mail.....2.00
Weekly Edition, per year, by mail.....3.00
Parts of a year at the same rate.

To prevent delay and mistakes, be sure and give Post Office address in full, including State and County.

Remittances may be made either by draft, express, Post Office order, or in registered letters at our risk.

TERMS TO CITY SUBSCRIBERS:

Daily, delivered, Sunday excepted, 25 cents per week.
Daily Delivered, Sunday included, 30 cents per week.

Address THE TRIBUNE COMPANY,
No. 15 Canal-st., Chicago, Ill.

RAILROADS AND WAREHOUSES.

The report of the Railroad and Warehouse Commissioners of Illinois, which we publish this morning, is a very thoughtful, interesting, and painstaking document.

We shall confine ourselves, for the present, to a brief recital of the principal facts and conclusions which they have reached.

The Commissioners received their appointments on the 1st of July last. They met and organized on the 1st of August, and immediately set about procuring the necessary information to enable them to enforce the new railway law, or to ascertain in what respects it was not susceptible of enforcement. This information was still imperfect in some respects (necessarily so when we consider the shortness of the time within which it was collected and compiled), but is nevertheless extremely valuable. Illinois, the Commissioners tell us, has now more miles of railway than any other State in the Union. On the 1st of December last there were 5,400 miles in operation and 1,708 in process of construction. The roads in process of construction, it is shown, are being built with the proceeds of town and county subscriptions and first mortgage bonds, without *bona fide* stock,—the stock being a gratuity to the projectors of the road. This process of watering stock before it is issued is not confined to Illinois, but prevails extensively all over the West. The viciousness of the system and its ill effects upon the community are properly commented on by the Commissioners.

The condition of the older roads of the State is pronounced to be excellent. The officers of these roads generally deny the right of the State to regulate their charges for the transportation of persons and property, or their method of fixing and changing them. Toward the conclusion of the report, the Commissioners discuss this subject at some length. While admitting that there are grave practical difficulties in the way of regulating such charges by statute, and that they cannot be regulated with advantage by any State in the cases of roads traversing two or more States, they express the opinion that the decisions of the Supreme Court in the Dartmouth College and other similar cases, denying the right of the State to control its own corporations, are liable to be reversed. At all events, the law under which they act leaves them no option but to prosecute for violations in every case where it is made their duty to do so. The existing law, however, makes the party injured by alleged excessive charges the prosecutor of the railways, and only authorizes the Commissioners to act in cases where the individual brings his complaint and proofs to them in due form. Only one such complaint has been actually brought before them, and in this case they instituted legal proceedings against the offending railway in the Circuit Court of McLean County. They remark, incidentally, that the extreme penalty of forfeiture of franchise could not be enforced without inflicting far greater harm on the public than the original injury complained of, as it would involve the stoppage of all trains for an indefinite time,—there being no means of conferring the forfeited franchise upon any other corporation, or of operating the road by State machinery.

The Commissioners find that the principal complaint against railway management relates to what are known as discriminating rates, whereby a higher charge is made between two given points than between other points of the same or greater distance, on the same road. The effect of this is to make some places prosperous at the expense of others. To prohibit such discriminations is of more importance, they think, than to regulate charges. They believe that this is clearly within the power of the State, and that no means should be omitted to enforce the provisions of law in that behalf.

The warehouse law, or laws, have been found to work well. They have been generally complied with by warehousemen, and the grain trade of Chicago for the season has been unprecedentedly large,—the amount of grain inspected from Aug. 7 to Nov. 1 having been nearly twice as large as during the previous year, notwithstanding the great fire.

THE INCOME TAX.

The vote in the House of Representatives on Monday seemed to indicate a majority against the repeal of the income tax. This vote requires some explanation. That the income tax ought to have been repealed long ago, is unquestionably true. It is oppressive, especially upon honesty. It falls with heaviest force upon men who are too conscientious to make false returns to the Assessor. But the income tax is part of the present system of taxation. There is a large annual surplus of revenue, a surplus far exceeding even Mr. Boutwell's demands for the annual payment of the debt. A reduction of taxation is unavoidable; it must take place; and there is a variety of schemes for putting that reduction in operation. We have three kinds of taxation: 1. Internal, or excise, taxation on whiskey, tobacco, fermented liquors, stamps, gas, and income from banks and individuals. All this tax, less the cost of collection, is paid into the Treasury as revenue. 2. The tax on tea, coffee, foreign sugars, and a few other articles, the whole of which, less the cost of collection, is paid into the Treasury as revenue. In the fiscal year ending June, 1871, there were collected and paid into the Treasury, from these two sources of revenue the following sums:

Internal revenue	$143,098,154
Miscellaneous sources, including lands	33,953,262
Tea, coffee, sugar, and molasses	79,964,189
Total	$193,017,195

This sum of tax was all paid into the Treasury, less only the cost of collection. The entire revenues of the Government for the year were $383,323,995. The remainder of the revenue, $153,000,000, was collected from the third class of taxes, in which, under a rate of tax ranging from 40 to 150 per cent, the Government imposes an enormous tax, of which it receives only one dollar for each five or six paid by the people.

Assuming that the tax is to be reduced $50,000,000, the question becomes important, where shall the reduction be made? To repeal the duty on tea, coffee, or sugar, would reduce the revenue $30,000,000, and taxation to that same sum. While to repeal the tax on pig iron, and salt, and coal would reduce the revenue in the precise sum of $3,174,260, but would reduce the tax now paid by the people on those articles to the amount of $25,000,000. A repeal of the duties on steel rails would involve a loss of a revenue of less than half a million of dollars, but would reduce the tax now paid by the people five millions of dollars. The tax on leather is a very oppressive one, amounting, perhaps, to $30,000,000 a year, yet the Government only receives $1,500,000 annually from the tax. The tax on leather paid every year reaches $15,000,000, of which the Government gets one-third only. The tax collected on woollen shawls and blankets amounts annually to $20,000,000, of which the Government receives less than $25,000; while, of the $25,000,000 tax collected on carpets, less than $3,500,000 are paid into the Treasury. The income tax yielded, at the reduced rates and enlarged exemption last year, $10,000,000. To repeal that tax would reduce taxation and revenue in precisely that sum, while to repeal the tax on coal, salt, pig iron, and lumber would reduce taxation $50,000,000, with a loss of only $4,700,000 of revenue. The question is, whether it would not be better to get rid of $50,000,000 of taxation, which only produces $4,700,000 revenue, than to repeal the income tax, which is only equal to $19,000,000, but which is all revenue. In the one case, we get rid of enormous taxation with a small loss of revenue; in the other, we get rid of revenue, and leave the bulk of the taxation untouched.

Perhaps the best course for Congress to take is to adhere resolutely to every tax that is purely revenue, until such time as the other taxes, far more oppressive, but which produce, comparatively, little revenue, have been repealed. The income tax expires by limitation one year hence.

THE LAMENT OF TWEED AND GOULD.

The modern sensation drama is marked by a skilful admixture of high tragedy and low comedy. The circumstances surrounding the death of Fisk satisfy these conditions, and make of it a drama sufficiently sensational to suit the most morbid taste. The strife for the mistress, culminating in the pistol-shot from the hand of the possessor, forms the tragic element, and now enter the comedians, Tweed and Gould. Tweed cast to the law and Gould to the high comedy part. Tweed is true to himself in his acting. Experience has been his master. He was the Fisk of political intrigue and chicanery and municipal robbery. When the great Sachem of Tammany put on his war-paint and feathers, brandished the tomahawk and sounded the war-whoop, the city treasury bled at every pore. Great warrior that he was, however, it was not destined that he should die in harness. He was captured alive, and, in Indian fashion, his captors stripped him of his jackdaw plumes and stolen spoils, one by one, and turned him out to the tender mercies of the world with nothing but a Senatorial toga to cover him. No wonder that he speaks feelingly. No wonder that he sees in Fisk's death the loss of another of those "splendid men," "generous as the day" (with other people's money), "always giving some poor fellow work"—whom he wished to use. No wonder that he thinks Fisk is "an immense loss to New York." If Tweed had been shot, Fisk would undoubtedly have chanted the same death-song over the Boss. There is no man so base as not to find a justifier. When Bill Poole died, his shoulder-hitting friends met and passed resolutions, questioning the policy of Divine Providence in removing such a bright ornament from society. Bereft of all sympathy in his own fallen condition, Tweed's unctuous sympathy oozes out at every pore as he sees his lovely companions going one by one, and himself left blooming alone. He is, undoubtedly, sincere in his grief, and mourns, as one who will not be comforted, at the decadence of that long line of princely fellows who lived on public plunder, and were so generous in lavishing it on Opera Houses, and seraglios, and Legislatures. In the midst of this remarkable outburst of grief, it is consoling to feel that what is Tweed's loss is New York's gain. When Fisk Junior was shot, another prop was knocked from under Tweed. *Hinc illæ lachrymæ!*

And now comes Jay Gould, the Chadband of the drama. Tweed was violent in his grief, even to the extent of profanity; but Jay Gould mourns mildly, and assumes the high moral air. Mark Antony was not more poignant over the dead body of Cæsar. Jay Gould's sorrow reaches into the future. He has made the discovery that Fisk was a changed man, and that, if he had lived some time longer, a great moral reform would have been accomplished in his case. True, no one else had discovered this, and the last acts of his life, which were overtures to Mansfield to replace him in his old relations to her, do not evidence that kind of change which most people call reformation. Granting the possibility of the *denouement*, with which neither Stokes nor anyone else was acquainted; granting that the late Fisk Junior was about to commence the new year with the best of resolutions, and was about to live a life of decency and honesty, it is only a waste of grief for Jay Gould to mourn over it, for Fisk Junior is now past the possibility of earthly improvement. The next best thing, therefore, that Jay Gould can do, is to take the lesson to himself; to mourn no longer over the lost opportunities of Fisk Junior, but to resolve to be "a changed man" himself, before it is forever too late.

In the meantime, neither Tweed's boisterous and profane wailings, nor Jay Gould's didactic grief, are of any avail. Fisk Junior is gone, to use his own favorite phrase, "where the woodbine twineth." It will be the part of common prudence now, both for present success and future salvation, for all of this class to heed the lesson which his death teaches; so that, when their time comes, they may not have to depend for sympathy upon persons under indictment.

In the class of reports and counter-reports from the seat of war in Louisiana, it is difficult to determine the right and wrong of the case. The New Orleans press seems to be bound up, body and soul, in one or the other of the parties, and teems with denunciations of Carpetites and eulogies of Warmothites, or *vice versa*. We have yet to see a candid review of the situation. Praise and blame are lavished indiscriminately. The Times, after a column of vituperation of the "diabolical devices" of the "desperate adventurers," "cormorants," "perjurers," and their "bribe-bought allies," who are at least in their places in the House, notices approvingly the "jovial crew" of the Wilderness. The Wilderness is a United States revenue-cutter, and its "jovial crew" consists of Senators who are serving the State by cruising up and down the Mississippi, and overhauling steamboats in order to swell their number, and, by keeping the Senate without a quorum, are keeping the whole business of the State at a dead-lock. In other States, members of the Legislature oppose iniquitous schemes by their voices and votes in the sessions; in Louisiana, they have developed a new political system, which yet seems to be founded on the old adage, that

> He who fights and runs away
> Will live to fight another day.

The constituents of these amatorial vagabonds should remember the rules of war in regard to deserters, and see to it that this assertion is published by political death.

The journals opposed to the Civil Service reform are industriously passing through their columns a pleasing fiction in regard to a venerable Government pensioner, who was born amid the stirring scenes of the Revolution, devoted his young manhood to his country's cause in 1812, waved the starry flag of freedom all over Mexico, and sent all his relations to the late conflict. As the story runs, the aged patriot, in order to aid the country and himself, had applied for a clerkship at Washington. To him came a miscreant, and examined him for his qualifications for the post. As he didn't know anything, he didn't get the place. Hence, the manifest injustice and absurdity of the Civil Service reform are but too evident.

The annual excitement about intoxication among women is just beginning again. This year it is backed up by some startling statistics contained in a pamphlet on the subject, published by the Appletons. The states that in New York City, during the last ten years, there have been 132,103 persons committed to the city prisons for intoxication alone. From the City Inspector's report, it appears that 35.6/8 of the number were women. Worse than this is the fact that, in 1865, out of 18,518 committed for that offence, 11,392 were women. This is a bad showing, and Tweed's famous question, "What are you going to do about it?" is, in this case, of especial force. Prohibitory laws have been tried, and found wanting. Education and temperance societies alone will stay the evil in either sex.

The New York *Evening Post* calls for a constitutional amendment, in that State, to provide against any appropriation of the public funds to sectarian schools. During the last five years the amounts thus appropriated have been as follows: 1867, $194,000; 1868, $247,000; 1869, $221,000; 1870, $226,000; 1871, $230,000; total in five years, $1,021,000. Of this amount, $991,000 were given for charitable objects and private institutions. Nearly all the remainder went to Roman Catholic institutions. These $1,000,000 are, in all probability, exclusive of the amount practically given by remitting taxes, etc., during the same time. This legislative generosity with the people's money ought certainly to be stopped, and the only sure method is by a constitutional amendment absolutely prohibiting it.

Every rural periodical has a standing dissertation on the benefits of advertising. In society, however, that it has its disadvantages. In Staunton, Va., a firm published an advertisement, in which some reference was made to the Polish nation. A zealous native of the "martyred kingdom" took offence thereat, and demanded an explanation from the senior member of the firm. An altercation ensued; the injured Pole resorted to fisticuffs, and the irate advertiser to pistols. His printed words were, however, more deadly than his revolvers, for the patriot came out of the encounter wholly unharmed. The matter ended in both parties to the affray being bound over to keep the peace.

RAILROADS & WAREHOUSES.

First Annual Report of the Railway and Warehouse Commissioners of Illinois.

Classification and Condition of Our Railways.

Construction of New Railways—Defects in Present Railway Laws.

The Powers and Limits of Railway Legislation.

Reports of the Chief Grain Inspector and Warehouse Registrar.

Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc.

REPORT OF THE RAILROAD AND WAREHOUSE COMMISSIONERS.

To His Excellency John M. Palmer, Governor of Illinois:

In compliance with the act establishing a Board of Railroad and Warehouse Commissioners, approved April 13, 1871, in force July 1, 1871, which makes it the duty of the Commissioners to report to the Governor their doings for the preceding year, on or before the 1st day of December, in each year, the undersigned Commissioners beg leave to present to you the following report:

ORGANIZATION AND ACTION OF THE BOARD.

The law having gone into operation on the 1st of July last, the Commissioners received their commissions, and were qualified by the 8th of July last, when they met at Springfield, and organized by the election of Gustavus Koerner, Chairman, and J. H. Raymond, Secretary, and by adopting rules and regulations for the transaction of the business appointed regular monthly meetings the first Monday of each month, and also provided an office, stationery, and furniture. A circular letter was addressed to all the railroad corporations doing business in this State, informing them of the organization of the Board, directing their attention to the constitution and the laws, as far as they have a bearing upon such corporations, and requesting them to report fully by the 1st of September, 1871, as provided by the sixth section of the act creating the Board.

For the purpose of obtaining a proper classification of the said railroads, as contemplated by the act establishing a reasonable maximum of charges for the transportation of passengers, in force July 1, 1871, the companies were requested to make in their reports to the Board a statement of stopping trains at eating stations, which has come into use on several of the important roads, involves the question of the reduction of the rate of fare to two cents per mile, and also the total length of road operated by them on which said earnings were made.

The information was also requested to said circular, which is made part of this report, and which was issued on the 13th of last July. By the 1st of August, 1871, there were reported a large number of miles within the State, and cross earnings per mile, has been received, but from one railroad only, as early date.

The principal railroad companies in this State, however, by their representatives, appeared before the Board, at its session in August, and gave their reasons why they had not prepared their preliminary reports within the time mentioned in the circular. The correspondence in regard to that matter, and also, the oral explanations then made by the representatives of the railroads, having reference to the consenting of some parts of the new railway law to be impracticable in the operation and business of railroads, will be found in the appendix.

At the September session of the Board, many reports had been received, but several of them were imperfect, and were returned, for amendments, in order to make it conform to the number, that nearly all the railroad corporations had made their returns, and that a classification could be determined upon, as the law requires. A list of the reports, with date of reception, filing, etc., will be found in this report.

These reports, it must prove interesting in the highest degree to our people, as the railroad interests by far the greatest now in the State, is moving hourly property, other than the railroads, to succeed in nothing else than in furnishing the public with accurate and reliable information as to the expenditure of the money, the organization bodied in the railroad interest, so as to indicate means of protection against its encroachments, it will be found to be a very important and useful function of a considerate government.

The Commissioners, upon examination of these various reports, that, with few exceptions, they are still more or less imperfect, and their information, as given by the several companies in the legislative form; that many of the present corporations are the result of numerous consolidations of the legislative, judicial, and voluntary action (consolidation), so as to make it almost impossible for them to give information to the original subscribers of stock, by whom its capital was paid in, how much was paid in cash, etc., etc., in many of the roads, and the work completed only a short time before the law went into force, and that several of them are only partly completed, and that, therefore, the returns of their gross earnings, as required by the law, are in many instances merely—the defects in the returns can be readily accounted for. One of the principal difficulties arises from the fact that many of the roads in this State are only links of what may be called national lines, which lines, while formed and managed by companies chartered in different States, and are managed and their accounts kept without reference to State boundaries. Under our present laws, it becomes a very important question, what proportion of the gross earnings of the roads *within* the State; and, inasmuch as many of the roads do not keep separate accounts of expenses within the State, a mere estimate of such earnings could be obtained in some instances. It appears, from the reports of similar Boards in other States, that the difficulty in getting complete reports was experienced even in a greater degree and for a greater length of time than by this Board; but it may be said that this Board has succeeded, by continued suggestions and instructions, in obtaining more perfect returns than could have been expected within so brief a period after the adoption of the system.

PASSENGER FARES.

The classification arrived at from the returns of the gross earnings and the length of railroads in this State was notified to each company, and publicity thereof was given by the press of the said classification. From present information, the Board believes the fare has not been regulated according to the said classification, and that the roads which were thrown into the first two classes, necessitating a reduction of passenger fares to three cents per mile. This question gives to the yearly aggrieved a penal action for the recovery of $100. Some actions have been instituted by private parties, in the courts of the several counties where the operations for overcharging, but the Board is not advised of the result.

Under the law, as it now stands, the action to enforce penalties for its violation is given to the party aggrieved, exclusively, and this Board does not seem to possess any authority to institute actions to recover penalties for the violation of that law, nor has it any control over actions instituted by private individuals. In this respect the law would seem to be defective, since it throws upon individuals the burden of enforcing the general policy of the State with reference to railroad charges.

The act further provides, in order to enforce the law, that if a final judgment is rendered a *fifth time* against any defaulting corporation under the provision of the act it shall work a forfeiture of its franchises, and it is made the duty of the respective Attorneys General to proceed for such forfeiture by information in the nature of a *quo warranto*. It is needless to say that no attempt has been made to enforce the penalty for any such proceedings under the "passenger fare act." It is very true that the act appointing this Commission declares that in case any corporation they shall prosecute, or cause to be prosecuted, all corporations or persons guilty of violating any law of this State having charters, which shall be hereafter in force, concerning railroads and warehouses, but as the mode and manner of prosecuting is not defined, the Board have not found it practicable to commence any official proceedings, and the Attorney General, also, has not acted on the matter.

The Commissioners call attention to the communication from their Secretary, James H. Raymond, as to the expenditures, etc., etc., of the office, and to the recommendation therein contained. A slight increase of the appropriations for incidental expenses of the Board, etc., is asked for, would enable the Board to provide better for the safety of the records and papers in the office, and place it upon something of the same footing as the other officers of the State Government. The seal and unremitting attention of Mr. Raymond, as the actual Secretary of the Board, have produced results valuable to the State and creditable to himself.

The Board are gratified to see, in the last message of your Excellency to the present session of the Legislature, an allusion to the subject of the employment of professional services in enforcing the laws regulating railroads and warehouses in this State, and cannot but add their testimony to the expediency of such a provision.

The experience of the Board has already shown the importance of authority being vested in some responsible officer of government to employ professional aid, which possesses the special and peculiar knowledge requisite for the proper prosecution of the investigations which the law requires. They would, therefore, suggest that authority should be conferred upon this Board to employ, with the advice of the Governor, such counsel as they may think necessary to aid the Circuit Attorneys in such prosecutions.

CONDITION OF THE OLDER RAILROADS IN OPERATION.

The general character and condition of the roads in this State, which have been open for business for some time, will compare favorably with that of roads in any of the Western States. The past season has been unusually favorable for the repair of roads, and, as a rule, the roads in this State may be said to be, on the whole, in good order, according to the standard in that respect in the Western States. But few of the roads are, as yet, thoroughly ballasted; this is occasioned by the scarcity of suitable material for the purpose in the vicinity of the work of ballasting is, for that reason, more expensive, and necessarily requires longer time than it would if the material were more frequent intervals, so as to require but a short haul for its distribution.

The capacity of these roads for the transaction of business is being increased, so as to meet the growing wants of the people, and their mechanical structures, such as bridges, stations, buildings, and the like, are being improved. The early structures, which were temporary in character, are rapidly giving place to permanent and substantial ones. Generally their character and capacity are being greatly improved.

The equipment of these roads, as to engines, passenger and freight cars, may be regarded as excellent; particularly the accommodation for passengers furnished in this State is quite as good, if not superior, to that furnished by any of the leading roads in the country.

The recent adoption of dining cars for the accommodation of passengers, instead of stopping trains at eating stations, which has come into use on several of the important roads, involves the question of the reduction of the rate of fare to two cents per mile, and also the total length of road operated by them on which said earnings were made.

The information was also requested to said circular, which is made part of this report, and which was issued on the 13th of last July. By the 1st of August, 1871, there were reported a large number of miles within the State, and cross earnings per mile, has been received, but from one railroad only, as early date.

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The classification arrived at from the returns of the gross earnings and the length of railroads in this State was notified to each company, and publicity thereof was given by the press of the said classification. From present information, the Board believes the fare has not been regulated according to the said classification, and that the roads which were thrown into the first two classes, necessitating a reduction of passenger fares to three cents per mile. This question gives *to the yearly aggrieved* a penal action for the recovery of $100. Some actions have been instituted by private parties, in the courts of the several counties where the operations for overcharging, but the Board is not advised of the result.

Under the law, as it now stands, the action to enforce penalties for its violation is given to the party aggrieved, *exclusively*

...ge because of being weary or ...The Board of Trade have for a ...ceipts of the same ...ars scarcely ...from the old, under the ...ment. This is not necessary the ...e, as the extreme dryness of the ...ll prevent much of it, under our ...and ... Now wheat is in de... by the corp ... same time millers ...ld crop. As wheat of both ...at the same time, it must, under ...ce, be regarded together, and buyers ...ly sensitive. ... respectfully ask your Board ...ed the Legislature to delegate to you ...power to regulate and control ...of Chicago, ... much ideal ... the inspec... in charge ...e Warehouse ... of grain, as ...een more mul... complaint of ...alers, receiv... the past three ...t of the in... ...ional employees, as ...board does dur... the inspection ...ength of time ...ly lost in the ...n of business, ...ch, sitting, ...peration of all ...ilatory; and ...ired to issue ...from 50 bush... inquires the ...ber of bush... ...ber receives ...ge according to law, the amount of ...receipts and shipments of each kind and ...grade received and shipped by them, ...also a full statement, daily, ...of warehouse receipts, issued, ...cancelled, and on Tuesday of each week, ...under oath, of the amount of each ...grade of grain in store in the ware... ...of each elevator firm, at the close of busi... ...Saturday preceding. ... ...of these forms will obtain for this purpose. ...is my report that these requirements were in ...complied with; some of the firms de... ...to furnish a full description of each receipt ...issued by them, but furnished the numbers of ...grain only. We have, however, been en... ...from this source to cancel such receipts ...as the destruc... ...of fire, or ...dimin... ...ssions ... ...the warehouses ...ary, as ... ...the books and ...rly all saved. ...Mr. S. Dey, ...Dean, Clerk in ...were at the ...placed in the ...that the usual ...books on hand ...with the office ...ed, and the ...at an office the ...st and 36 Canal ...ch is centrally ...the Board of ...ily. I bought ...Clerk's Office, ...retary's Office ...as we are very ...in keeping with ...building. ...because by ...which, proba... ...men not act... ...ply, and ...I addressed a ...of your Board, ...estions as to ...ovements unpaid ...notifying them ...or only those ...ance of the past ...changes in the ...ing service ...are highly ...pect I have ar... ...ment ...panying paper ...nts of the grain ...ch are now ...(17) as ...ed to the ...ne, and if, upon ...ence, it would ...ed by ordi... ...an amendment ...principal reasons ...ons 1 and 2 with... ...ed by elevat... ...ch number ...inspected in ...bushels from ...nsiderably stalli... ...statement of ...former years. ...gestions is ...ch be greater ...ons. After the ...be understood ...ged from this ...as the destruc... ...of

OUR FIELD AND STABLE.

Warts—Remedy for a Lame Horse—Distemper—Sore Throat—Re-called "Hog-Cholera"—Spavin.

From Our Special Correspondent.

MANHATTAN, Kan., Jan. 3.

WARTS.

AVALEY, Iowa, Dec. 15, 1871.

VETERINARIAN *Sir*: I have two colts, 3 years old next spring, very fine stock, and a kind of wart appears on their necks, and sometimes on both sides of the head; sometimes only on one side; they are very small at first, and in the form of a sel-nut. I thought that they had been bruised by my cattle, but the lump is still there, on each colt, and they are not troubled with flies mostly, and the colts fight with each other as much as if in pain. If the wart is disturbed by the colt rubbing it ever so lightly, the outside rubs off, and sores the same [illegible] are not painful at first. The warts are now larger than a hickory-nut. What are they, and how can they be cured? Please answer through THE TRIBUNE, and confer a favor on yours respectfully,

RICHARD BLAKE.

Answer to Richard Blake.—You ask what those small, bloody lumps are. You call them warts, and, as I have to rely upon your description, I cannot give them any other name. They are, like all warts, morbid excrescences of the skin. As to the treatment, which has been very often described already in these columns, you may take it that in this case, a concentrated solution of corrosive sublimate in absolute alcohol (1:9), and apply that to the raw surfaces once a day by means of a camels' hair pencil, till the warts have disappeared; but be careful so that the very corrosive solution may not come in contact with the healthy skin.

AMETIGO, A LEPROUS ERUPTION.

ROCKFORD, Ill., Dec. 27, 1871.

VETERINARIAN *Sir*: I wish to get some information about a disease among cattle, that I can hardly expect to explain so as to give you a correct idea. The disease is contagious—the whole herd being affected, and no other in that section of the country, or any other that I have ever heard of. It consists of a watish coating on scab, something between scurvy and a seed wart. It first appears about the eyes and head, then extends back upon the neck, no farther. In pressing upon the skin of the animal, the scab, or wart, separates down to the hide, and is dry, or, I might say, a dry rot. Cattle seem dumpish, and have no appetite; eyes are dull. Young calves in the same herd are affected. Any information through THE TRIBUNE will be thankfully received. Would such a disease be communicated to cattle occupying the same stalls after the diseased cattle were removed? This is a feeble description, but the best I can give, except in the way of answering questions relating to it, as it is entirely new to me, and everyone else in this section.

Answer to J. F. D., Beckford, Ill.—The disease you describe is very common, especially in calves and young animals. It is a leprous eruption, or impetigo, which, as you have correctly observed, generally commences on the eyelids, or in the neighborhood of the eyes, on the nose, on the ears, etc., and, in some cases, spreads toward the neck, and makes its appearance on other parts of the body. At first you have to regulate the digestion of your animals, by not feeding them anything but perfectly clean, healthy, and easily-digestible food; and have to rub in at the diseased spots, or places, a little fresh lard, or sweet oil, in order to loosen the scurfs and scabs. After that has been done, you may apply, once a day to the diseased surfaces, a little tincture of iodine, or a weak solution of carbolic acid (crystal with alcohol or glycerine and water, till a healing has been effected.

STRINGHALT.

KNOXVILLE, Ill., Dec. 27, 1871.

VETERINARIAN *Sir*: Your prompt and candid answer to your many correspondents have prompted me to trouble you with one or two questions. I have a very good, reliable, and gentle horse, 8 years old next spring. During the last very cold weather, in taking him out of the stable, I have noticed a little kicker with one or both hind feet more than he does with the other. I suppose he has incipient stringhalt. Please give your views through the columns of your paper, and oblige a friend. If there is any remedy, if there is any. Respectfully,

E. BAILY.

Answers to E. Baily.—As the stringhalt of your horse is not very troublesome, I think that there may be some hope of recovery; for it has been frequently observed that perfect rest, given to such an animal for some time, has been attended with a beneficial effect, and has led to a perfect and lasting recovery. In those cases, however, in which stringhalt has been existing for some time, or in which the horse can have no rest, but has to perform hard labor, no recovery can be expected.

In a majority of cases, the next cause of stringhalt consists in a morbid condition of the ischiadic nerve; and the seat of the mischief, generally, is found a little below where the roots of that nerve, proceeding from the spinal marrow, unite to form a single string. Therefore, neither medicines nor operations can be of any avail.

SO-CALLED HOG CHOLERA.

SAVANNAH, Mo., Dec. 26, 1871.

VETERINARIAN *Sir*: My hogs, about 50 head, and still are, dying with a disease having the following symptoms: First, shivering, or cattle, followed by cough, and difficult breathing, and disposition to eat, second, ears become purple, scarlet,—redness turning mottled along the back and belly. The disease, according, in most cases, has been succeeded by what is commonly denominated "lumps,"—death occurring generally in ten days or two weeks. I wish to be enabled to have information, through THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE, as to the cause, nature, and treatment of the disease. Most respectfully yours,

T. M. LANEY.

Answer to T. M. Laney.—The disease which is so fatal to your hogs is a typhous disease, presenting itself in the form of spavin be re-moved without injuring the limb? Is there any cure for string halt? SUBSCRIBER.

Answer.—The exostosis produced by spavin, and that probably is what you mean, cannot be removed. As to string halt, see above.

VETERINARIAN.

A Story of Love and Heraldry.

A leading weekly journal professes to give, "on reliable authority," the reason why the King of Servia is, at the mature age of 27, still unmarried, namely: That he is in love with the pretty prima donna of the Berlin Opera, Mdlle. Wellinger. During a residence of nearly a year in Munich I never once heard that the King was suffering from misplaced affection. That he is young to wed a Princess with whom he can sympathize with him in his studies for Wagner and the "Music of the Future" is another reason frequently given in French and German journals for his state of single blessedness. If appreciation of "Lohengrin" is the only qualification that King Louis desires in his wife, surely he might have been satisfied with his own cousin, Princess Sophie, to whom he was engaged five or six years ago, for she, it is well known, was enthusiastic in her admiration for the solid operatic music of the eccentric composer, and often distinguished herself in Court circles by her imperfect rendering of the heroine. It is well known that during the days of that engagement, the King frequently came to Munich, the Princess Sophie, it is said, was then in the habit of visiting Munich, and was to be married to the King of Bavaria. King Louis, like a devoted lover, imported it for her from Italy, but on the condition that she should never eat prunes, in his presence, as that fruit was offensive to him. The Princess could not or would not control her penchant to conform to the fastidious taste of the King of Poesenhofen. Upon perceiving the choice of prunes, the King rose from the table, left the room without a word of farewell, and returning to his own castle of Berg, on the opposite bank of Lambert Lake, threw the Princess' boat out of the window into the water, and wrote to her cousin (Duke Max) that he released his cousin from her engagement. Whatever was the real cause of the dissolution of the engagement, King Louis generously allowed his cousin to say that it was broken off at her request. She has since married the Duke d'Ateneon, grandson of Louis Philippe.—*Letter in New York Mail.*

THE APIARY.

Do Bees Eat Grapes?—Their Value in the Orchard—Winter Feeding.

From Our Special Correspondent.

RURAL HOME, Jan. 6.

Do bees eat grapes? is a question that has produced no little feeling and caused trouble in some quarters, while a great deal has been said on both sides of the question. As a general thing, those who do not keep bees, and have grapes, insist upon it that bees do eat grapes; while beekeepers as strenuously deny the charge. That hornets and wasps do eat grapes is quite well established. They have a cutting apparatus, whereby they can cut through the skin, and the reach the juice of the grape. Not so of the honey bee; he can only suck up the juice when it has been exposed from any cause,—the puncture of other insects, or the bursting of the skin. The wasp and hornet have a cutting apparatus for the purpose of cutting wood for their nests; while the soft, flexible tongue of the honey-bee can only mould the soft wax, or sup up the juice of the small fruits or the nectar of the flowers. As small as is the tongue of the bee, it is hollow throughout its length, thus forming a tube through which it draws up the honey from the base of the flower. It is, therefore, impossible for the bees to cut through the skin of the grape or of any other fruit. But we need not rest the case on that point alone. If you will lay a cluster of sound grapes on the alighting-board of the hive, not a grape will be touched; but, puncture them with a pin, and you will see a different state of things for the bees will then sip out the last particle of the juice.

As long as I can remember, we have had both grapes and bees, and this question has been the subject of no little talk at times. The bees appear to swarm on the grapes, sucking out the juice from large numbers of the berries,—one, two, and sometimes more in a single bunch. Last summer, a neighbor who insists upon it that his neighbors' bees eat his grapes, came to me with a smile of conscious victory: "Now, Miss Ella, I have it. The bees sting the grapes, and then suck up the juice. You are right about them not being able to eat through the skin, but they simply sting the fruit, and thus are enabled to get at the juice." Here was a new difficulty—a charge not so easily parried. No one doubts their ability to sting, and to thrust that sharp instrument of torture through the thick skin of the Concord or the tough skin of the Isabella. Will they do it? is a question. For one, I have no idea that they use their stings for any other purpose than in offensive or defensive warfare. The sting is charged with poison, and when it is thrust into any substance, it emits a small quantity of this poison from the poison-sack; for, sharp as is this little bayonet of the bee, it, too, is a tube through its centre, and through this the poison is ejected. But I am aware that mere theory as regards what they will and what they would do, when capable of doing or not doing, will not satisfy people, and we must fall back on well-attested facts. If you will take a pin and puncture a given number of grapes in a cluster, you will find the bees feeding on all of them, while all the rest are untouched. This is pretty conclusive proof on this point, and ought to satisfy most people. It is quite a common practice to make an article of grapes for the bee stands, and yet it is seldom the bees attack those grapes. The grape vines are not pushed forward with high culture, or pruned with that skill that produces large crops; hence the crop is light. They are not disturbed by insects, or liable to skin-bursting; and the result is, the bees do not eat them. That is my view of the matter. The different vines are exposed to the best direct rays of the sun; the fruit is pushed forward with high culture and close pruning, that shall give a more vigorous growth of fruit; the skin is more delicate, and, being dressed with fluid, is liable to burst; insects are more numerous, for the conditions are such as to favor them; the fruit is in good order for breeding; and they delight to feed on the richer and more succulent fruit, that has been grown under a more favorable condition of things. Mr. Hubbard, a bee-keeper of Indiana, in Kentucky, in writing to the *Country Gentleman*, says that thirty years of careful observation have convinced him that bees never attack the sound grapes. During all this time he has had a large vineyard for wine-making, and at times has kept a hundred stands of bees. Many other prominent bee-keepers have given similar testimony, so that, so far as I know, has taken the other side of this question. I am, therefore, fully satisfied, from my own observation, as well as the testimony of others that has come under my notice, that bees do not attack sound grapes, and that, in eating those that have been injured, they produce no new injury to the crop. The injured grapes are not fit to go to market, and must be carefully clipped from the clusters, whether the bees sip the juice from them or not. It is also certain that, when there is plenty of buckwheat in bloom at the time of the ripening of grapes, the bees will neglect the grapes for the buckwheat.

But the bees do the horticulturists an immense amount of good, especially in early cold springs, when they carry the fertilizing pollen from flower to flower, in the orchard and the fruit-garden, that insures to us a better crop of fruit.

In connection with our apiary is also a large orchard, containing many thousand trees. This orchard has produced uniformly good crops of fruit, and has averaged more than similar orchards where no bees are kept; and for this the bees have credit, while they are never charged with injury to the vineyard, where tons of grapes are produced. That their good offices are seen in the better setting of the grapes, I am fully convinced. No one need hesitate to keep bees for fear of losing their grapes by them, for this, I think, is settled beyond all cavil. Though, when flowers are not to be had, they may swarm in the cider-mill, or the wine-press, and persist in eating ripe apples that they find skins abraded, this is the extent of their foraging, and no more.

The past week has been so mild that it has been a pleasure to look over the swarms one of these days. This would be a good day, if full comb from the strong hives, and to see that they are all in proper condition. I have been in the habit of feeding melted sugar, but I like this plan of exchanging, in the case of combs, as it is less labor and the food is more matured for the bees. Some years ago a bee-keeper told me that he fed 1,000 pounds of sugar to his bees, under the belief that he would make a large saving of honey; but I understand that he is now satisfied that he committed an error. There are so many bees that are short of honey this season that I cannot refrain from calling special attention thereto.

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Two Sisters' Devotion to a Brother Fifty-four Years in Close Confinement.

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For fifty-four years Kinggold Dozier's life and abode have been voluntary close confinement within the four corners of the mansion and home of his aged sisters, secluding himself in a small room on the ground floor, with a walk of twenty-five feet for daily exercise, the whole plat being 30 feet square. Within this solitary space of his choice he lives, to all appearance, happy and contented, and unseen except by his two surviving sisters, who now administer to his daily wants with a true sisterly love and devotion. One is always present at his call, and both are eager to favor his simplest wants. Time and age seem to knit closer the fond attachment of these worthy defenders of the estate of their brother, and they will not entrust the valued charge beyond their own personal administration. Even the charitable offers of State benevolence are respectfully declined.

These sisters are not dependent, nor do they solicit aid. It seems to be a pride, and instead a pleasure, to study the interest and comfort of the idiot brother, and of aiding to encourage him in his religious and devotional exercises, then join together in chanting his Methodist songs and lessons that he learned up to the time of his misfortune. The religious enthusiasm took possession of his tender mind. He knows and talks understandingly of all events up to 1818, and will recognize, by sight, those who were living at that date. Two of his sisters that lived and died devoting their whole lives to the benefit and interest of their invalid brother are now dwelling in the city, and are equally as revered by the surviving devotees to his wants.

So quiet and secluded do this peaceful family live that neighbors know nothing of this heroism of sisterly devotion, presenting a case of the kind never before recorded since this man has lived in exile from the world. Here, in the midst of a dense population, steamboats, railroads, and telegraphs have been invented and established in sight of this man's abode, yet he knows it not. His idea of grades is connected with the primitive custom of 1818, riding on horseback. His thoughts are centered on his Bible, which is read and re-read until its pages are worn so as to be scarcely legible to all eyes but his own, that are black and piercing when he pores them from his Bible to give a stranger an unwelcome glance. His locks are white with time, and his flowing gray beard reminds one of the old patriarchs. He doubtless owes his good health to his sisters' care and anxious watchfulness, which has existed a length of time unprecedented in the annals (Duke Max) that he released his cousin from her engagement. Whatever was the real cause of the dissolution of the engagement, King Louis generously allowed his cousin to say that it was broken off at her request. She has since married the Duke d'Ateneon, grandson of Louis Philippe.—*Letter in New York Mail.*

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THE FISK-MANSFIELD CASE

Judge Brady's Opinion as the Sacred Correspondence.

From the New York Commercial Advertiser, Jan. 5

The following is Judge Brady's opinion in the case of the Fisk-Mansfield correspondence:

The plaintiff seeks to restrain the defendants from using, or any person or persons from using, and also to restrain them from using in any way, by publication or otherwise, certain letters, relating to or alleged to relate to the defendant Mrs. Mansfield. He rests his right to relief upon the averment that all these papers and letters were delivered by the defendant Stokes to him for a valuable consideration, the defendant Mrs. Mansfield assenting as to the letters to such correspondence. Further claims that the letters being of a private character, he has the right to prevent their publication, or the publication or threatened publication of any agreement under which he is to have excited public effect, and to an unusual degree, and the interest continues to be manifested, to some extent, at least. It is doubtless an assumption that the developments to be made in this case will be of a character to affect immorally and the cause of justice to some extent the scope of controversy. Expectation is rife that the letters contain expositions of his supposed manipulations of moralling elements to embarrass his purposes or those of the Erie Railway Company, of which he appears to be regarded as the representative, but as to which, there is nothing in them of that character, these expressing my views of this controversy. I propose to consider first the objections taken in reference to these letters. The cases in Hoyt vs. Mackenzie, 2 Bar. ch. R. 320, and Webster vs. Webster, 10 Paige, 9, for the growth of the defendants, Stokes and Mrs. Mansfield, clearly rely as authorities for the right to publish the letters, or to restrain the publication of them by injunction, to restrain their publication, have been reviewed and overruled by the case of Woolsey vs. Judd, 4 Duer 379, decided by a general term of the Superior Court of this city, composed of Oakley, Chief Justice, and Justices Duer, Campbell, Bosworth, Hoffman, and Slosson. The opinion of Justice Duer, and of Justice Duer, and is not only able and exhaustive, but it demonstrates, by the citation of numerous authorities, that the defendant's conduct was in conflict with the rule which had prevailed in England for a hundred years. The theory of those cases is that, unless the writer has parted with his literary compositions, their publication cannot be restrained, and it seems no matter how private or confidential the correspondence, or what the circumstances under which they were written. This doctrine is a most extraordinary one, and cannot sound either in the policy or the morality in which we live, or the assertion of the rights in any civilized country. It strikes at the very root of the confidence and friendship existing between man and man, and invades the sanctity of private relations. We are taught from childhood to regard letters as written under the most sacred privacy, and to treat them as such. Indeed, from the personal area of those written to persons of our own household, to those written to the world, therefore, would be to destroy the element of sound life, which elevates and refines, and leads to the cultivation of the amenities of life. There are circumstances, it is true, that may make it just that letters, though confidential in their character, should be given up and deposited with Mr. Sergeant, and such disposition was made of them. Whether he had obtained from Mrs. Mansfield the right thus to surrender them they have doubtful, but as the result that she loaned them to him for purposes relating to his controversy with the plaintiff, and that she was advised of the use to be made of them, is not material. Indeed, the contents make such revelations in regard to the public interests, that they should not be withheld from the public. The views I have expressed by Justice Story in his Equity Jurisprudence, Sec. 944, 945, accord with those declared in Woolsey vs. Judd. He says, "Nothing to be done which shall be suggested, however far the protection of Courts of Equity ought to be given to restrain the publication of private letters not falling within the class of literary compositions: "Fortunately for public as well as private reasons, the doubts on this subject have been greatly narrowed. It is now held that there is a distinction between private letters of one nature and letters of another." And further: "In a general view, the publication of private letters, even in cases where it is necessary to the proper vindication of the rights or conduct of the party supposed unjustly to have violated the confidence, or to have exhibited public effect, is